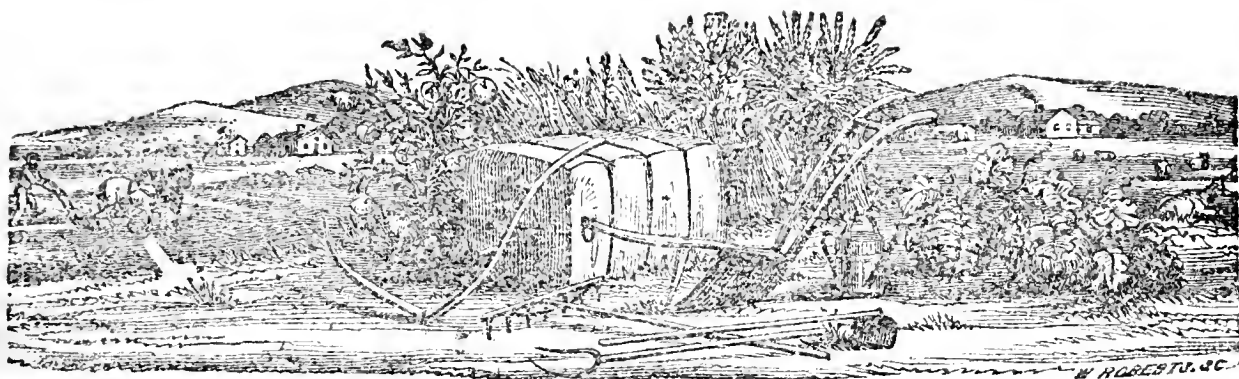


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THE FARMER AND PLANTER

Devoted to Agriculture, Horticulture, Domestic and Rural Economy.

Vol. IX,

PENDLETON, S. C., NOVEMBER, 1858.

No. XI.

The Farmer and Planter,

ISSUED MONTHLY AT PENDLETON, SO. CA., BY

GEORGE SEABORN,

Editor and Proprietor.

TERMS:

1 copy, one year (*invariably in advance*) \$1 00.

6 copies one year " " 5 00.

25 copies one year " " 20 00.

100 copies one year " " 75 00.

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☞ The postage on the *Farmer and Planter* is, any where in the State, three-fourths of a cent, and out of the State one cent and a half per quarter.

Improved Agriculture for the Southern States.

The importance of some improved system of tillage for the Southern States is admitted by all. We need this improved system especially in the old cotton States, for the purpose of retaining what little soil is left us, as well as in order to renovate our old worn out lands.

Quite a number of writers have arisen to discourse upon the laws of agricultural chemistry, which should be brought to bear upon our improved agriculture. But they so overwhelm the ordinary farmer with technical terms that he finds it quite as difficult a matter to understand these, as he does to make new his old fields. To accomplish this latter feat, he finds hard enough; but when he must learn how to do it through the medium of a language—which is as incomprehensible to him as Patrick Henry asserted the language of the Choctaws was to royal George—good heaven, how his honest rustic heart quails before the task! Either to understand the technicalities of chemistry, or to improve poor land is difficult enough; but when you require the common run of our farm-

ers to do both, at one and the same time, you require of them an utter impossibility. No wonder their hearts sink within them at the bare mention of book-farming.

It is forgotten by most writers upon agriculture, that the learned professions have as yet absorbed almost all the learning in the land; and that when they pen an article for farmers, they write for a class of men who, as a body, are utterly ignorant of chemistry and its hard words. And even when some pedant pretends to popularize chemistry, so as to bring it within the capacity of those he designs to benefit, he really has not got sense enough to know what is comprehensible to the masses. How long will agricultural writers, politicians, so-called statesmen, poets, novelists and public speakers forget that, in all their fictions, nineteenth of the human family belonging to that class, whom their want of sense excludes from their lucubrations as to the means of benefiting their fellow-men?

It is my design, in this article, to pen a few thoughts for those of our farmers—being a majority of them—who can read the plain English version of the Bible, who peruse their newspaper and an occasional pamphlet, and who do not aspire above common parlance in what they read or what they say. Being a common man myself, I shall write what can be understood by common men.

Living in one of the worn-out counties of Middle Georgia, upon an old plantation, I know what I am discoursing about. I say our lands can be, and ought to be, improved. And those which are fresh, ought to be kept in as good condition as they now are, although yielding us no bountiful crops.

I do not believe that Nature has arranged things so badly, as to make it necessary for us to wear out our lands in order to make from them a living. I believe that if we would return to the soil, year after year, all the corn and cotton stalks, and wheat, and oat straw, together with the stable manure—which is the

result of feeding our stock upon the grain grown upon our land—that land would hold its own, if it did not improve. I once mentioned this theory to a friend, and pointed him to a majestic forest growing hard by as a proof of its correctness. There, said I, is that piece of woodland. It makes a better crop than is produced upon any of the land which you have in cotton or grain; and there is no rotation with it, but the same crop every year. And yet, it does not become impoverished; but, if anything, improves.

My friend replied, that the essence of the soil which we cultivated was concentrated in the fruit which we took from it, and this was the reason our soil was impoverished. But I answered my friend that the essence of the soil in the forest was also concentrated in the acorns and hickory nuts, and persimmons, and grapes, and countless berries, which go to support the squirrels, birds, and other little denizens of the wood. These must be fed as well as man; and when they are deprived of their food, it is as much a violation of nature's general economy, as it is for man to fail to get his daily supply of bread. We are apt to remember man to the exclusion of other creatures of that God—

"Who sees, with equal eyes, as Lord of all,
A hero perish or a sparrow fall."

Pope has Bible authority for the sentiment in this couplet; for we are told in Holy Writ, that not even a sparrow falls without the will of our Heavenly Father.

The sparrow, the squirrel and other little as well as large animals, then, being God's creatures, were designed to live; and in order to live, they must partake of the fruits of the earth, and the earth must produce for them their bread. This is found in acorns, berries, &c.—And in these are concentrated as much of the essence of the soil as in the crops which go to make the staff of life for man. Hence, if it is actually necessary, in order to produce food for man, that the soil should be exhausted, so, also, is it necessary to exhaust it in order to produce food for the birds of the air and the denizens of the forest. But, as I said in the beginning, I believe that nature has arranged her economy better than that it should be necessary to exhaust the soil to produce food for either man or beast, or clothing for the farmer.

Some of the foregoing propositions are liable to some modification. For instance, where I say that there is as much concentration of the elements of the soil in the production of forest crops, for the maintenance of birds and animals, as there is in the production of field crops for the maintenance of man; this proposition may be liable to some modification. I have not aggregated the elements drawn from the soil in the production of forest and field crops, in order to determine with exact nicety which crop is the more exacting in its demands. I may be told that Indian corn, wheat and cottonseed are rich in their concentration of oil and other elements. I answer, so are, also, the acorn, the chestnut, and the hickory nut. But it is not important that I should be exact in this matter, especially as I do not wish to cum-

ber this article with analyses, statistics or technicalities.

It remains true, then, for the purposes of this paper, that there is no greater concentration of the elements of the soil in the production of field than of forest crops. Yet the latter do not exhaust. Why should the former?

It is not only true that the forest crop does not exhaust forest land, but I find it is the opinion of some of the old farmers around me, that some of the lands have improved in intrinsic value since the settlement of this country.—There are lands here which were at first passed over on account of their poverty, which are now productive on account of the accumulation upon them of vegetable mold. But why should our field crops exhaust, when our forest lands, if they do not improve, at least maintain their own, though producing annual abundance? The reason is, that, in the latter case, nature is the farmer, and she regards her own economy; while man, in the former case, is the tiller of the soil and totally disregards all the laws of nature, from whom he holds his fields.

In the forest, nature produces a large crop of acorns and berries, which go to feed nature's animals. But at the same time, she returns to the soil everything taken from it, except the food for the animals; and a part of this is also returned in the manure produced.

But how is it with man in his dealings with the soil? How is it, especially with us cotton planters, with whom I have more particularly to do? We take everything from the soil, and return nothing to it. Our corn-stalks, cotton-stalks, wheat straw and often our cotton-seed are suffered to dry up and give their substance to the winds, instead of being returned to the soil. If we should return all these things faithfully to the earth from which they at first got their growth, we should soon see a very different state of things from that which now exists.

With the best system of tillage, I must confess that man submits his fields to washings and leachings, which nature's forest is fortunately relieved from. This could be obviated, to a great extent, if not almost entirely, by a proper system of deep plowing, hill-side ditchings, and under-ground drains. But I will grant that nature, in the cultivation of her forest, will have some advantage in this respect. Then, again, she will have some advantage in the fact that her soil is always shaded, always has one vast umbrella of leaves spread over it, so as to prevent the unfavorable action of the sun, and prevent the escape of the fertilizing gasses. On the other hand, man's fields have no such umbrella, either to keep the sun off, or to prevent the upward escape of the gasses which are generated from the corn and cotton-stalks that are left upon the surface.

But where nature has the advantage of us in the foregoing respects, we must put ourselves on an equality with her, by calling in to our assistance her daughter, Art. Nature is quite willing that we shall have the assistance of her child in all of our undertakings; and she has so arranged it, that whenever her own operations cease for our benefit, we may have the

aid of her daughter, whom she sends in her place, so that if we employ this daughter rightly, it is nature still.

How can we so employ art as to put ourselves on an equality with nature in the management of our lands? Briefly, I reply, by deep plowing, hill-side ditching and underground draining; by returning all the refuse of our field crops in such a way as to prevent their evaporation and flying off upon the wings of the wind, or being borne off upon the swelling tide of the rains, or riding away upon the red heralds of the sun's rays. To speak of these things more in detail, will be one object of the further development of this paper.

But here, I must observe, that we can have one advantage over nature in the cultivation of our fields. Besides sending our carts and wagons upon her premises, and hauling off the leaves which she has scattered over her soil to manure it, we can also send a living army as a foraging party, to ravish from nature's store-houses the feed which she designed for the mouth of her soil, and give it to the hungry stomach of our own. We can send our cows and hogs, and sheep out upon nature's pastures, and the food which they browse they will bring to our barn-yard or cow-pens in the shape of manure for our exhausted fields. This is why I said, a little back, that the forest got only a partial return of the fruit which it yielded. In the first place, our stock feed upon those fruits and return a part of it to our fields, and, in the next place, the birds and little wild animals do not confine themselves in their deposits entirely to the forest.

Having shown that it is not necessary that land should be exhausted in the production of large crops if we will treat it rightly, I will now proceed in detail to show in what the right treatment of land consists.

As soon after Christmas as the weather will permit, we should commence to prepare our cotton land. Before proceeding further, however, I will say that the farm, by which I propose to illustrate this article, consists of eight hundred acres. Half of this we will allow for arable land, the balance being old field woodland and pasture. I will say there are twenty hands upon the plantation. In the first place, you must select your four hundred best cleared acres for arable land; the balance you must abandon to lie out and improve, or make pasture. I propose now to plant, in the spring, one hundred acres in cotton, and one hundred in corn; and that the ensuing fall you sow your one hundred acres of corn land in wheat. You will see that by the plan I present, you will have only ten, instead of twenty, acres to the hand in cotton and corn.

So we have the land arranged off; one hundred acres for cotton, one hundred for corn and one hundred for wheat. Let us see, now, how we will manage it. In the first place, I will say every acre must be manured, as far as it is possible for this to be done. We will begin with the cotton land. As soon after Christmas as the weather will permit, you must commence to prepare for your cotton crop. In the first place, haul out, as fast only as you can use

it, your stable manure and the scrapings around your yards, lots and negro houses. Take a scooter plow then, and run off your rows three feet apart. Then with a very long, wide plow, run another furrow in the scooter furrow already made. Fill this trench up with manure, and with a turning plow, or a scooter with a wing attached, bed upon the manure, breaking out the middle with scooters.

There will be some difficulty at first in getting a sufficient quantity of well-rotted manure to use in planting your whole crop. But take time, and collect the decaying vegetable matter all over your plantation, and put it in the furrows. You know you are going to plant but five acres of cotton to the hand, when you usually plant ten. So you can have the time which it would take to prepare half of your cotton crop, planted in the usual way, to collect and deposit manure. If you fail in getting a sufficient quantity of this article about your houses and lots, you can supply the deficiency by going to the woods for it. Send out your carts and wagons, rake off the soundest leaves from the top, and then with your weeding-hoes, collect the mold, half-rotted leaves, &c., and haul the mass to your cotton field; then deposit this in the furrows, bedding upon it as above. It is true, this will not do so well as well-rotted manure; but it will certainly add to the productiveness of the land; for it takes so long to make, that even long manure may be made to rot sufficiently during the course of cultivation, to be taken up into the vegetable manufactory that produces stalk, leaves, lint, and seed.

I will presume that you finish preparing cotton land in the foregoing way by the 20th of February. You will then begin to prepare your one hundred acres of corn land. I will presume that you have had this land in cotton the preceding year. Now you must take your scooters and give it a good, thorough breaking. Then haul out your cotton-seed to manure your corn. If you have not enough of these to manure your whole crop, you had better save your best rotted stable manure to help out the cotton-seed, and supply the place of stable manure, so taken from the cotton crop, with mold from the forest.

The 20th of March is time enough to commence planting corn. If you finish preparing your corn land before that time, devote yourself up to that date to the task of fencing, ditching, &c. Then when you begin to plant corn, lay off your rows five feet apart, dropping a handful of cotton-seed every three feet in the drill, and then dropping the corn upon the seed. These should not be thrown down in a close, thick bunch, but should be scattered in being thrown down, so that the roots of the corn in going downwards should have no barrier to penetrate. After the corn is deposited in the furrow, then cover with a scooter furrow, or with the weeding-hoe.

If you finish planting corn ever so soon, do not begin to plant cotton before the 20th of April, nor even at that date, unless you have finished preparing your land, as I shall now proceed to show. Take a scooter and run a

furrow exactly in the middle of the ridge under which lies the manure deposited as shown heretofore. If the point of the seooter goes down and reaches the manure so as to stir it up, and incorporate it more fully with the soil, so much the better. Then with your turning plows, or winged seooters, throw the dirt upon the furrow opened upon the ridge. Two seooter furrows, so thrown upon this furrow, leaves a middle, which can be plowed only by one shovel furrow. You will see that this second operation is but a repetition of the first bedding of the land. If you wish to tend your crop easily, it must never be dispensed with, because by the time you get your corn planted, it will have been so long since your cotton land was plowed, that the grass will have come up upon the ridge where your cotton-seed is to be planted. And if you do not kill this by the operations proposed, it will cause you an immense deal of trouble during the cultivation of the crop. You will have grass in abundance coming up, and come up among the growing cotton, which you cannot destroy without greatly endangering the stand. This grass should all be destroyed before the cotton is planted; for then you can do it with the plow with one-fourth the labor, that it will take to do it with the hoes after the cotton is up, besides preventing any danger to the stand. Let me repeat, then, that this second bedding of the land must by no means be dispensed with, it matters not how late it takes you to accomplish it.

I will observe, by the way, that the reason why a shovel may be used in breaking out the middle in the second bedding is, that the land having been once broken, it will be light enough to warrant the use of a broad plow in the second instance.

After the second bedding is completed, then begin to plant. Take a short seooter, open a ridge, strew in the seed, and then cover with a board two feet long affixed to the plow-stock, said board having a notch in the centre as usual.

Now you have your cotton and corn manured and planted. I shall not now enter into a detailed account of the after culture. Suffice it to say that both crops should have frequent shallow plowings—shallow, so as to disturb the roots of the growing crops as little as possible—frequent, so as to keep down all grass and weeds.

By the time you have got all your cotton and corn worked over the first time, your wheat will be ready to cut. This will be about the beginning of June. As soon as it has time to dry sufficiently in the sheek, take your thrasher to the field and get it out. Then carefully stow away all the wheat straw into your barn for the purpose of feeding your cattle in the winter. If you have a sufficient quantity of shucks to make your cattle turn up their noses at your wheat straw, feed it to them any way. What they do not eat they will trample upon and convert into manure. In the absence of better food, they may be better supported upon wheat straw, especially if cut up by means of a cutter, and then sprinkle with salt-water.—The wheat itself should be well sunned, and

then stowed away in boxes. Some experienced farmers in my county always throw a few leaves of the Pride of China in among the wheat to keep out the weevil.

After saving your wheat, then turn your attention with renewed zeal to your cotton and corn. This may be laid by, by the middle or last of July. If there is an interval between laying by the crop and pulling fodder, devote it assiduously to general improvements upon the farm.

After the fodder is saved, which it will take to the middle of August to accomplish, you will have two more weeks—until the 1st of September—to devote to general improvements. Some cotton may open before that time, but I do not recommend you to stop to pick it out. In the ideas which I am about to advance now, I know almost every farmer will differ with me. The usual plan is to attend to the cotton to the exclusion of every thing else. I say let the cotton have the time and attention which justly belongs to it, and no more.

It is a common saying, and a true one among our farmers, that it takes just as much time to save a short cotton crop as it does a long one. This should not be so. I think we should go to some other work and leave the cotton to open. It is true that winds and rains and storms may come and injure the staple, and you may get a fraction less for your cotton crop than you otherwise would. But recollect that the time which you save in refraining from running over your field after scattered cotton is worth money to you in the improved system of tillage which I propose. If you let king cotton be as imperious in his demands upon you as he usually is, you will be attending to his commands from the 1st day of January to the 25th day of December, both inclusive. But strip him of a portion of his assumed royal prerogative, adopt a more republican system upon your farm, and it will not only be better for other productions of your soil, but will, in the end, benefit the king himself. For if you allow him to have his own way, he will soon exhaust your soil, so that neither he nor anything else can flourish upon it. But devote only the proper time and attention to cotton, and you can improve your land, and thus not only corn and wheat, but cotton also may be better grown upon it.

Then I would say, do not begin to pick cotton until the 1st of September, nor even then unless it is pretty well opened. Devote August to pulling fodder and to improvements.—Then pick cotton all the month of September. At the beginning of October, commence to gather your corn and seed peas. After this is finished, turn young stock upon the harvest field to glean the waste corn and peas. Then take your wagons and carts, and haul the corn-stalks up in piles of sufficient size all over the field, putting them in rail pens. First put a layer of stalks, then one of lime, stable manure, ashes, &c.; then another layer of stalks must be added, throwing in as much dirt, vegetable mold, pea-vines, green weeds, &c., as are necessary to rot the whole mass. All the pile must then be thoroughly wetted, and left to decay.

until the manure is needed to put into the ground the next time the land is planted in corn. Say you do this in October, 1858, then in November you sow the land in wheat, and it will make a wheat crop in 1859. In 1860 it will rest. In 1861 it will be planted in cotton, and in 1862 in corn again. So your piles of corn-stalks will have over three years to rot and make manure from the time you put them up until you wish to use them. In this way you may make a plenty of manure to your hand, in your field, to manure your whole corn crop. Recollect you are to haul out and put up with your corn-stalks, all your stable manure, scrapings from your houses and lots, ashes, and all the lime you are willing to buy, so as more effectually to ferment and rot the whole mass. If you think the corn-stalks not sufficient to make you enough manure, then use all the pea-vines, weeds, grass and leaves from the forest which you have time to collect.

This done, if you have any interval of time between its accomplishment and the first of November, devote it to picking out cotton.—About the first of November begin and sow your wheat. Take all the cotton-seed which you have ginned out and put them upon your wheat land. This is all the manure which you have now to spare to put upon wheat. The balance of your cotton-seed must not be put upon your corn land the ensuing spring, but must be saved for the wheat crop to be sown in the fall of 1859.

After your cotton is picked out, which should be by the 25th of December, you should then, after the negroes have had their Christmas holidays, begin and haul up all the cotton-stalks, putting them in pens, and throwing in weeds, leaves, lime, ashes, stable manure, &c., as you have done in case of the corn-stalks. This mass will have three years to rot before being used to manure cotton the next time the land is planted in cotton. It will be seen that I propose to manure corn with manure made of corn-stalks, and cotton with manure made of cotton-stalks, so that like may produce like—an important item.

It will be seen that it will take several years to get full into the plan of manuring which I propose. In the meantime the best shift possible must be made to manure the land planted, which can be done by raking up all the vegetable mold, &c., which can be collected upon the plantation together with cotton-seed, stable manure, leaves trodden in your lots, &c., &c.—But the heaps of corn and cotton-stalks must not be disturbed before the expiration of three years.

In the first place, you put up your corn-stalks when you go to sow your wheat. These will lie and rot three years, and at the expiration of that time can be used to manure with when the land is planted in corn again.

In the next place, you put up your cotton-stalks after picking out your cotton, so as to make manure three years afterwards, when the land is planted in cotton.

In the third place, you use your cotton-seed to manure your wheat crop.

In the fourth place, you rest one-fourth of

your arable land every fourth year; and the foregoing plan of manuring and rest are the leading features of the system of improved agriculture which I propose for the South.

[*De Bow's Review.*]

Agricultural Reforms.

The constant deterioration of the soil, even where nature has been most generous in her gift of fertility, has forced upon agriculturists, in most of the States, the consideration of new modes of culture. The fact is established beyond controversy, that the system of tillage that has prevailed in the United States, has gradually exhausted the elements of production, forcing the ultimate abandonment of lands; that were once supposed to possess inexhaustible resources, for virgin tracts that never have grown yellow with harvests.

In Massachusetts, between 1840, and 1850, three hundred thousand acres were added to the list of cultivated lands, yet the census shows a diminution in all the products of the earth, and but a slight increase in the number of head of stock. The crop of corn in Indiana has fallen off one-third in the amount formerly obtained, from any given surface. In Wisconsin, but one half the number of bushels of wheat is now grown upon an acre, that was considered an ordinary crop when its fresh fields were subjected to the dominion of the plow.

Nor is the picture presented by the older Southern States more flattering. The value of the harvest of Virginia has declined not only from increased production, but from marked deterioration in the quality of its leading staple. In 1840, 65,347,106 pounds of tobacco were produced, while in 1850, only 56,803,227 pounds were raised. The loss of strength of the crop of the former period, as determined by the amount of potash in the ashes of the tobacco, was found to be a striking peculiarity of the latter period. The water-worn and naked fields in almost all the cotton States, show the waning of the powers of the soil, and stand as sullen monuments of inconsiderate waste, while the slender growth of the uplands foreshadows a wider domain of barrenness.

Some of the causes of this remarkable loss of productive energy by the comparatively virgin lands of this western continent have been revealed by the labors of agricultural associations and the comparison of our system of farm management with that which prevails in the old world. The constituent elements of the plant must be found in the soil or it dies; and what is once assimilated and enters into its growth, must be returned again or the earth loses its capacity of continued production.

Not a few in the South have pointed to their tawny fields, their decaying homesteads, their diminished income, as the result of the policy of the General Government in affording indirect protection to one class of industry at the expense of another, when they had themselves exhausted the fertility of their land by their improvident mode of farming. The sooner our Southern planters come to understand the modes of reinvigorating their soil, of adapting their

culture to the demands for nutriment of the staples they grow, the better it will be not only for individual prosperity, but for the interest of the entire slave States.

The comparative slow growth or actual decline in population of some of the number that have been the longest settled is to be attributed only to the temptation of the fresh lands of new territories. Following in the beaten track trod by generations long buried, the same crop has continued to be gathered year after year from the same fields, until a once rich estate has been converted into barren wastes, and poverty and all its hardships glared upon the proprietor, until he plunged into the forests, and, beyond the influences of a refined civilization, created a new home. Thus has the drain been established from the older slave States, reducing their comparative political power and their means for home improvement and independent enterprise. Their indifference to the science of agriculture, which has taught man to deck absolute barrenness with the garniture of luxuriant greenness, has done more to palsify their enterprise, and to affix upon them marks of decrepit age, than the worst of governments that were not anarchies, could have produced.

The organization of agricultural associations in most of the Southern States is an encouraging sign of improvement. Feeble though this movement has been in Louisiana, yet, in various parishes, its importance is plainly appreciated. Deep as are the alluvial deposits of our State, and abundant as is the production on most of its old or new lands, the old system of agriculture will produce complete exhaustion.

A plantation is but a chemical laboratory on a large scale, where nature produces the changes, by assimilation, absorption and fermentation, that produce the crop of sugar and cotton. It is the part of the manager of the estate to supply her with the materials for her operations—to aid her in her work of filling the cane with its saccharine juices, and the cotton boll with its snowy fibre. This power is gained only by observation; by a study of chemical laws; by an analysis of soils, fertilizers, and the great staples produced.

Associations most readily gather this experience, stimulated to the necessary research, and finally gather power, after the importance of the subject is properly developed, to influence the legislation of the State in favor of its agriculture. Here is the true source of agricultural development. The employment becomes a passion when the eye is trained to watch the operations of nature in building up the structure of plants, decking the flowers with their robes of beauty, and crowning the forest with its garniture of leaves.

Give to agriculture the study and the zeal which has been bestowed upon politics; make leagues to double production by rightly using the fertilizers furnished everywhere for ready use; influence legislation in favor of the interest which is the groundwork of the prosperity of the State; reclaim the swamps; strengthen the levees; introduce the vine and all the wealth of Pomona and Flora; secure a geo-

logical and chemical survey of the State to unveil its wealth, and a new era will commence. Louisiana will then suffer no drain by emigration to richer or more productive soils, and she will cease to be cursed with absenteeism, which has been an incubus on her prosperity.

What homes of beauty she might possess, more highly adorned each revolving year, with the choicest ornaments of the forest, the richest products of the orchard and the garden! Let the planters of every parish vie with each other in their labors to elevate their employment to a science, and turn to their own advantage all the practical hints which agricultural chemistry and agricultural associations have established as laws of production, and in ten years the census of the United States will mark a progress that shall be the greatest marvel of development which it has ever recorded.

[N. O. Picayune.]

The Cotton Crop.

A writer to the *Farmer and Planter* speaks of the injury done to the planting interest by circulating reports concerning the growing crop. The writer signs himself "Broomsedge." His communication is dated September 1st. We make the following extract, applicable to the *Carolinian*: "Only a few days since, we read an article in the *Carolinian*—a paper published at the capitol, the centre of nearly all the railroads of the State—rejoicing over the prospects of a glorious harvest. Of all things, the reports about the production of cotton should be reliable—there is no end to the mischief which misstatements may bring upon the planter. All this blowing, whether it turns out true or false, re-acts upon him. These first blooms, first bolls, and first bales, are trumpeted over the land—every now and then embellished, and by the time the news reaches Liverpool, it amounts to a crop of 3,500,000 bales at least, and the next news we have is, 'owing to the advices by the steamer from America, cotton has declined.'" We publish these extract merely for the purpose of acquiescing in the propriety of the remarks of "Broomsedge." We plead partially guilty to the cause of complaint against the *Carolinian*.—Our rejoicing over the cotton prospect may, however, be dated at the infancy of the plant, and before the disastrous drought which has so completely blasted the early promise. The prospect at that time was certainly one of the most promising we have ever witnessed. But we agree with "Broomsedge" about the impropriety of indulging in any parade of prospects. For the European purchaser will certainly be cautious in his offers for the remnant of a crop, when another crop, with bountiful promises, is on the threshold of the market. Speculators and manufacturers in Europe are always vigilant for cotton reports. Their superior power of combination enables them to depress the market upon the receipt of any news that may excite their apprehensions. They are always interested in a depression of prices, because it widens their margin for profit on the cloth.—

We are not of the number who regard the price as fixed. This idea of fixedness of price is a delusion that two heavy crops would completely dissipate.

Unfortunately for the planting interest, it cannot act with concert. The first of January, which is the recognized day for all money settlements at the South, comes at a time when probably not one-fourth of the crop has been sold, or should be, if the planter could await the legitimate demand. But his obligations have to be met, and he is obliged to force his produce into market. His pay-day does not enable him to hold back, and makes his sales according to the demand. The manufacturer, not wishing to buy raw cotton, that he will not be able to weave into cloth for four or five months, because capital so invested lies idle, will only buy when he can do so with advantage. His demand for cotton continues through the entire year. The day of general settlement, established by a ruinous custom, forces the planter to act without any reference to that demand, and, to rush into market in December, with produce, which could be sold at greater advantage, if held back and only sold to suit the legitimate demand of the manufacturer. This might be remedied, says a writer in *DeBow's Review*, by deferring the day of general settlement to June or July. The suggestion is worthy of consideration. For, by glutting the market at the opening of the season, the manufacturer gains an advantage which he retains to the end. These disadvantages to the cotton planting interest we fully appreciate, and therefore estimate duly the complaint of "Broomsedge." Hence, it has been our constant object not to exaggerate, but to keep constantly up before the public the accounts of the ruinous falling off in the crop since the drought. By referring to our issue of the 19th, "Broomsedge" will see that we there estimate that falling off as embracing more than one-fourth of an average crop. It would be well for the press to keep constantly in view the fact that, there is no produce more sensitive in its market value than cotton. So much so, that even the very report of a large crop, reacts disastrously upon the planter.

[*South Carolinian.*]

A Suggestion to Planters.

We find the following excellent suggestion in the *Columbus (Geo.) Times*, and commend it to our planters for deep consideration. Such a change we conceive would be just to the overseers as well as their employers. Each overseer would then control the whole operations of the crops raised under his care. Under the present arrangement, it often occurs that a slovenly or ignorant overseer, feeling no interest in the following crop—from the fact that he expects to leave his situation before that is planted, will neglect those important duties, necessary to be performed during the time from October to January, in order to leave his land in good condition for the next crop, but turns over the plantation to his successor on the 1st day of January, in a worse condition than when

he first took charge of it, with scarcely any preparation made for prosecuting the operations of the next year; and what has been done, is often found to be of more injury than good. The overseer who succeeds him, however, is made responsible for the crop made upon this slovenly preparation, and often, be he ever so intelligent or capable and judicious, his reputation is made to suffer, because his crop is not equal to what was expected, or had been in past years. Let every overseer, begin and end the crop, and he will have but little chance to blame his predecessor, and his own ability and worth will be apparent.

The proposed plan might be objectionable in many respects, but we believe it would be of paramount benefit to all concerned. Perhaps some of our Agriculturists will take up the subject and discuss it. To us it seems to be a matter of great importance:

Laurensville Herald.

I have been long convinced that every consideration of benefit and advantage to owners and managers, recommended a change in the employment of Overseers—making the year to commence and end on the first of October, instead of the first of January. All that remains of the year's work on the first of October, are cotton picking and corn gathering. A manager taking charge at that time would prosecute them with more energy and care, than one who expected to leave at the end of the year. He would hurry the cotton picking in order to have all the time possible to prepare for the next year's crop. He would gather and carefully house the corn, with an eye to its use by himself. He would put down the crops of small grain with more care, expecting himself to reap them. He would more carefully fatten the pork—hogs, expecting himself to use the bacon. The plow and grazing stock would be taken in charge at the commencement of the winter, and he would feel, in taking care of them, more interest and responsibility than if he had to carry them half through it and then turn them over to a successor.

Between the first of October and the first of January, there is much time that cannot be devoted to cotton picking; this he would feel more interest in appropriating to repairs, ditching, &c., preparatory to the next crop, than would one who expected to leave at the end of the year. Again, thus taking charge on the first of October, his means of ascertaining the capacities of the plantation and the force upon it, would be far superior to what they would be under the present plan.

But I forbear to extend this article, believing that I have said enough to call the attention of the planting community to it. It is easy enough of accomplishment. Will not the *Southern Cultivator*, the *Soil of the South*, the *Agriculturists* soon to assemble at Atlanta, and the *Cotton Planter's Convention* of Houston County, give these suggestions such consideration as their importance seems to demand, in the opinion of at least one

PLANTER.

When corn costs 50 cents per bushel, pork costs 5 cents per pound.

Overseers' Rules.

We have very often published rules and regulations for the management of Southern estates, and now add to the number, a series laid down by an overseer in Jackson Parish, Louisiana :

1. Before going to bed, I will think over what I have to do the next day, and note it down upon my slate, in order that it may be recollected on the morrow.

2. I shall rise early, and never let the negroes catch me in bed in the morning, but see that they are all put regularly to their work.

3. After rising, I shall not idle about, but go directly to the business of my employer. I shall see that the negroes are at their work; that the horses have been fed, the cattle attended to, &c. If any of the negroes have been reported as sick, I shall at once see that proper medicine and attendance are given.

4. Wherever the negroes are working, I shall consider it my duty to be frequently with them, in order that I may see how they get along. I shall not content myself with doing this once a day, but I shall do so repeatedly, observing every time what they are doing, and how they do it. I shall never permit them to do any work wrong if it takes the whole day to do it right.

5. *Negroes.*—I shall see that the negroes are regularly fed, and that they keep themselves clean. Once a week at least, I shall go into each of their houses, and see that they have been swept out and cleaned. I shall examine the blankets, &c., and see that they have been well aired; that every thing has been attended to which conduces to their comfort and happiness.

6. *Horses.*—I shall consider it my business to see that the horses are properly fed and rubbed; their stable is well littered. When harnessed and at work, I shall see that their harness fits, and does not gall them, recollecting that these animals, though dumb, can feel as well as myself.

7. *Cattle.*—I shall daily see that the cattle have been penned, that they have good water to drink; and I shall at once see how I can best procure a pasture for them, I shall let the cattle-minder know that he is watched and held responsible for these things.

8. *Milk cows.*—I shall contrive to procure these the best pastures, if possible. I shall feed them night and morning, and shall so manage it as always to have something for them to eat when penned.

9. *Houses, fences, &c.*—I shall endeavor never to let these get out of order. The moment I discover them out of repair, I shall have them attended to, never forgetting that "a stitch in time saves nine."

10. *Carts, wagons, &c.*—I shall observe the same rules about them as about the horses, &c., and shall never put off attending them until I may want to use them, when I shall not have time to do so.

11. *Time.*—I will always recollect that my time is not my own, but my employer's, and I

shall consider my neglect of his business as so much unjustly taken out of his pocket.

12. *Visits.*—If any one calls to see me, I shall entertain him politely; but shall never forget to attend to my business on that account.—"Business first, and amusements afterwards" shall be my motto. If any of my friends are displeased at this rule, the sooner they cease to be friends the better.—*DeBow's Review.*

Entomology.

The word *entomology* is derived from two Greek words, *entoma* and *logos*, which signify discourse and insects, a term implying a knowledge of insects. There are various classifications of insect tribes, and the arrangement has perpetually varied since the days of LINNÆUS, to the present time. That able naturalist classifies them from the wings; FABRICIUS, from the peculiarities or contours of their mouths, and LATREILLE from their general physiological structure. KIRBY, more recently, has adopted the locomotory organ, or legs, as the basis of classification. KOLLIER describes insects as "animals which have a body consisting of one or more divisions; articulated feet; a head conspicuously distinct from the body, on which are placed two movable horns, called antennæ. They breathe through air holes, which are situated on the sides of the body, the greater number having wings, in their perfect state, and only a proportionably small number are without them.

"With the exception of certain groups, all insects have six feet, and their bodies are divided into a head, thorax and abdomen, by notches or incisions; hence the name insect is derived from a Latin word, signifying *to cut*, or *notch*. Before they attain their perfect state, they are subject to various transformations, which are called metamorphoses."

DECAUDOLLE, and, if we mistake not, some other writers have estimated the number of insects that derive their nutriment from herbivorous vegetation, or plants, to amount to not less than one hundred thousand species. Some of these are partial to feed only on one kind of plant, while others devour indiscriminately almost every tender and sapid vegetable that falls in their way.

This is the case, to a certain extent, with the grasshopper, and more emphatically so with the locust, which, in the language of Scripture, may be said to devour every green thing. It is a matter of deep regret, that a department of knowledge so intimately associated with agriculture, is so little attended to, and so imperfectly understood. Of the habits, and even the names of the almost innumerable insects that prey upon our crops, we may be said to know comparatively nothing. This is not as it should be. If we know not the habitudes of our enemies, we shall scarcely be able to contend successfully with them in their attacks upon our fields and fruits.

While the leathsome *cimex lectularius*, common bed or chintz bug, which infests the domains of the housewife—ebtruding itself in-

"Scenes sacred to neatness and repose," is cautiously destroyed, the residue of the Hemipterous family is allowed the free liberty of our fields and gardens, carrying ruin and destruction wherever they go. Patiently we replant where they destroy, never reflecting that a few hours study would enable us, perhaps, to destroy them, and preserve, uninfested, the produce of our toils, and the beauty of our fields.

The destruction of birds, which is encouraged by many, is a practice that cannot be too severely deprecated, as it tends directly to the multiplication of the vermin which prove so destructive to many of our most valuable fruits and field products. A single robin—it is said—will, in one season, destroy as many worms as would, if permitted to feed upon our vegetables unmolested, lay waste whole fields. Yet these useful laborers are massacred without pity or compunction. It is to be hoped that our people will reflect upon this matter, and introduce a proper and effectual corrective. It certainly behooves them to throw around their crops every available protection, and as one of the cheapest and most efficient means of securing this result, we would recommend the preservation and protection of birds.—*New England Farmer*.

Science and Agriculture.

Selected from late foreign Journals, for the Charleston Courier.

Guano and Germination.—Guano has been found to retard the germination of seeds. This is ascribed to the large amount of ammonia it contains, and hence, especially in heavy soil, ammoniacal manures should not be drilled in with the seed. Even the superphosphates do not hasten germination; but when the young plant is up, then readily available food in the soil is of the highest utility. Under no circumstances should the seeds of root crops be planted in contact with artificial manure; rather should it have time to diffuse itself through the soil, and to secure this it should be distributed broadcast, or applied sometime before planting.

Boydell's Traction Engine, which is itself capable of plowing the land, threshing the grain, and transporting it to market, has recently been exhibited in England before several Russian noblemen and landholders, who design introducing the machine extensively in their country. The engine is provided with an "endless railway," which it lays down before the driving wheels and takes up behind them. It is, therefore, not only adapted to common roads, but can run where there are, literally, *no roads at all*, and over swampy ground, where a horse would sink. The tender and a train, consisting of a four-wheeled wagon and two carts, filled with turnips, were attached, drawn up a heavy incline, turned round within a circle of twenty feet radius, passed to grass land of a very soft character, where the wheels of the train sank so deep that horses could hardly have drawn them at all, but where the rails scarcely did more than leave the print of their rails on the

surface. Afterwards the steam-horse and his load were driven to the stable-yard, amid the acclamations of the company.

The Pulping or Mincing of Roots for Cattle has recently been the subject of much discussion in England, where its importance is generally recognized. Half the quantity, by measure, of cut straw is always given with the pulped roots. The value of mincing is seen in the comparative short time required to fatten animals and bring them into a wholesome fitness for human food. This is ascribed to the less demand made upon the first and second stomachs of the ox, for example, which stomachs, technically termed *rumen* and *reticulum*, may be regarded as compartments of nature's pulping machine, in which the food is prepared for digestion in the third stomach or *manyplus*.—Roots brought into a minute form are swallowed more quickly, and the animals have more time to lie down—an important matter, as rest is favorable to the taking on of flesh and fat. Sometimes the pulped mass is kept twenty-four hours before it is fed to stock, and is made to undergo an incipient fermentation, by which the starchy matters are wholly or partially converted into sugar. It is thereby rendered more palatable and more easily digestible. Horses, as well as horned cattle, are fond of sugar. A case is recorded of a pony, which, in consequence of being out of health, had some molasses given with its food, and such was the sagacity of the animal, that it would never afterwards take its food without molasses. In short, pulping may be regarded as a mechanical means of assisting the animal to do a certain thing in a shorter time than it would otherwise be able to do it in, and the incipient fermentation is merely a certain amount of digestion outside the animal.

From the New England Farmer.

Surface Application of Manure.

Where the purpose is to secure good crops of grass, I am inclined to believe this can be most successfully done by applying the dressing at a proper time, directly upon the surface. My faith in this belief was strongly confirmed yesterday by a view of the grounds of an intelligent gentleman who had dressed them in this manner only for a series of years; and I never saw better assurance of fine crops. I queried, whether it would not have been better to have turned over the sod, and mingled the manure with the soil, to save it from evaporation. In reply, he said, what do you want better than the present prospect of a crop? There will grow as much as can conveniently be cured upon the land, and the expense of fertilizing has not been one-third as much as to have plowed the ground; more than this, the appearance of the field is smoother and more complete, than it could be made after repeated plowings. I was thrown into a quandary by the argument. If any of our cultivators, of long experience, who have been accustomed to turn anew their fields, once in ten years or oftener, can tell why they do it, I should be glad to hear from

them. As at present advised, I believe the best crops of grass grown in this vicinity, are brought about by judicious top-dressings. I know this to be true, where kelp and other like articles can be obtained from the sea-shore, to spread upon the land. I know of fields of twenty acres or more, that can be relied on for two tons to the acre, at the first cutting, and one at the second, the sod of which has not been stirred for the last twenty years; these are the fields for the use of the *horse-power mower*. What kind, Mr. Editor, do you recommend to be purchased? Now is the time to prepare for the work.

June 5, 1858.

Essex:

REMARKS.—The practice is rapidly gaining ground of keeping moist lands in grass, and of top-dressing them once in three years at least, and oftener where manure can be had. It is hardly probable that an acre of naturally good land, at the same time moist, slightly top-dressed every year as soon as the crop was cut, would run out in one hundred years. It might be necessary, occasionally, to leave the crop until some of the seed had fallen, or to scatter seed upon it with the top-dressing if the crop were always taken off before the seed had ripened.

It is a heavy bill of cost to re-seed our mowing lands as often as we do, and hope this note of our correspondent will call out the views of others on the subject.—ED. NEW ENG. FARMER.

Toilet Soap.

Take 6 lbs. White Soap,
1½ lbs. Sal Soda,
1 table-spoonful Spirits Turpentine,
½ " Hartshorn,
1½ gallons of water.

JELLY SOAP.

24 ozs. water, or 1½ pints,
1 " Shaving Soap,
1½ " Carb. Soda,
10 grains Pulv. Borax,
5 " " Ammonia,
1½ drachms Spirits Turpentine.

Boil the water and mix the materials well.

The above receipt is taken from an old newspaper, and it is thought to be identical with the celebrated Roraback receipt which is offered for sale all over the country.* It is said the Roraback Soap yields upon analysis nearly 40 per cent. of tallow. This agrees very well with the above recipe, for the common White Soap yields 70 per cent. of tallow. The usual coloring matter of soap, is vermillion.

SCHÉELE.

[Independent Blade.

MR. EDITOR:—You will confer a favor upon one of the readers of the Journal, by publishing the above. By a perusal of it, the Rorabacks can ascertain whether they have been sold or not. It may or may not be correct, but it will do no harm to put people on their guard. Every 8 or 10 years a sort of soap paroxysm

convulses the country. Washing made easy, and soap made cheaper than Paddy's brooms, are all the go. All the scientific skill of chemistry has long since been spent upon this vexed question, and soap is still nothing more than the union of an oil and an alkali—call it what you may. The firm white soaps are chiefly made of the olive oil and carbonate soda, common salt being added to promote the granulation and perfect separation of the soap. It is marbled by stirring in a solution of sulph. iron. Common household soaps are made mainly of soda and tallow; or if potash is used, salt is added to harden it. Yellow soap is made by the addition of resin. Common soft soap is made from potash and any oily substance, or a strong lye made from ashes and any animal oil—the lye is much improved by the addition of lime to the ash hopper—but soap, made as it may be, must consist of an oil and an alkali.

A considerable stir has been made lately in New York, by development of the fact in the Supreme Court, that the "Balm of a Thousand Flowers" was nothing but good soap; that it was compounded of grease, lye, sugar and alcohol, dignified with the name of palm oil, potash, &c.

Certainly it must be a money-making business—ten dollars a gallon for an article which can be manufactured for six cents a gallon. So much for a fancy name. "Old women," save your soap grease—fancy detergents are looking up. Give a big name. Call it Mrangipania Humbugifolia, and advertise 1000 certificates from the afflicted, and your fortune is made.

But talking of soapsuds—take one gallon of water, one pound of washing soda, and a quarter of a pound of unslaked lime, put them in water and simmer twenty minutes; when cool, pour off the clear fluid into glass or stone ware, (it will ruin earthenware.) Put your clothes in, soak over night, wring them out in the morning, and put them into the wash kettle, with enough water to cover them. To a common sized kettle put a tea cup-full of the fluid; boil half an hour, then wash well through one suds, and rinse thoroughly in two waters, and if you don't give up you are paid for your trouble, I'm mistaken.

ALKALI.

[Unionville Journal.

Numerical Relations in Nature.

Every one has observed that the leaves of some plants stand in pairs opposite each other, on opposite sides of the stem. In other plants the leaves are scattered over the stem; but in these cases also we find them arranged in the most regular manner. Commencing with any given leaf, we shall find the next leaf above this, one-third of the way around the stem; the next another third, and the next another third, so as to stand exactly over the first. The series are therefore arranged in a spiral, which may be designated by the fraction 1-3. Taking another plant, we shall find the next leaf above any given one, two-fifths of the distance

*It is not.—ED. F. & P.

around the stem. The next will be four-fifths—the next six-fifths, and so on—each leaf moving two-fifths of the circumference, further around the stem. Here is a spiral, therefore, which may be expressed by the fraction two-fifths. In precisely the same way, we discover in other plants, which may be expressed by the fractions $\frac{3}{5}$, $\frac{5}{13}$, $\frac{8}{21}$, &c. If the case of opposite leaves, first mentioned, we consider each leaf as separated from the preceding by one-half the interval around the stem, we shall obtain the series of fractions, $\frac{1}{2}$, $\frac{1}{3}$, $\frac{2}{5}$, $\frac{3}{8}$, $\frac{5}{13}$, $\frac{8}{21}$, &c. It must be kept in mind that these fractions are ascertained by actual observations. But notice the relation which exists between them. Each numerator is equal to the sum of the two preceding numerators, and each denominator to the sum of the two preceding denominators.—Knowing this law we may continue the series to any extent—and it has been so continued, and fractions obtained, to which plants have subsequently been found to correspond. Is all this the result of chance? Is it not rather mathematics? law? intelligence?

But the most wonderful coincidence is yet to be noticed. Neptune, the remotest planet, revolves about the sun in 60,000 days; Uranus, the next, in 30,000 days, which is one-half the preceding number; Saturn, the next, in 10,000 days, which is one-third of the period of Uranus; Jupiter revolves in 4000 days, which is two-fifths of the period of Saturn. And so we may go through the system, and find a law regulating the revolutions of the planets, which is identical with that which determines the arrangement of leaves upon the humble stem of a plant. This wonderful law is so exact and uniform in its application, that before the discovery of the planet Neptune, the botanist in his garden could have predicted its existence and place in the heavens, with greater precision than the French astronomer in his observatory. Moreover, an examination of this series of fractions renders it impossible that any planets should exist exterior to Neptune, though more may exist within the orbit of Mercury. Astronomers will therefore please take notice, and not be found planet-hunting in the deserts of space beyond the orbit of Neptune. PROF. A. WINCHELL.

The Farmer and the Merchant.

The independence of the farmer is too apparent to require elaborate illustrations, and we have frequently commented upon the pursuit of agriculture to the thousands of young men who crowd our cities, seeking employment in shops, stores, banks and warehouses, as clerks, salesmen, book keepers, &c. We say, go till the ground, and if you do not make a hundred thousand dollars a year, you may rest assured that a panic or revolution will not sweep away, in a day, the crops of your farm; and what is more, your life will be prolonged, and you will be a happier, because a better man. The merchant or manufacturer may be robbed of the reward of his labor by change in the foreign or domestic market, entirely be-

yond his control, and may wind up a year in which he has done everything which intelligence and industry could do to insure success, not only without profit, but with an actual diminution of capital. The strong arm of mechanical industry may be enfeebled or paralyzed by the prostration of those manufacturing or commercial interests, to whose existence it so essentially contributes, and on which it so essentially depends. But what has the industrious farmer to fear? His capital is invested in the solid ground.

He draws on a fund which has never wholly suspended or repudiated: his success depends on no earthly guarantee, but on the assurance of the great beneficent Being, who declared that while earth endureth, seed and harvest shall not cease.—*Hunt's Magazine*.

TO PREVENT SOWS KILLING THEIR YOUNG.—

About two years ago we first mentioned what we have since known tried and proved effectual as a preventive against the killing of pigs by the mother—an unnatural, though by no means unusual proceeding on the part of some sows.—The matter was again brought to our mind by a communication from E. G. Buxton, of Yarmouth, who says there has been an unusual loss of pigs within his neighborhood within a few weeks past, and recommends, as the easiest and surest preventive, to give the sow about a half a pint of good rum or gin which soon produces intoxication, and the drunken mother, unlike some human mothers, becomes entirely harmless towards her young, and will even accommodate her position to the best advantage of the pigs, and in her recovery from her "bender," she becomes so much civilized in her disposition as to eradicate all signs of savageness towards her young, and she will manifest all the motherly care that is due to her "pledges of affection." We also knew of this remedy being tried by a neighbor of ours but a few days since, and it proved entirely effectual, not only overcoming the disposition of the sow to kill her pigs, but making her as careful of them as could be desired. [Maine Farmer.]

THE CULTIVATION OF TEA.—The Washington correspondent of the New York Times says that the Agricultural Bureau of the Patent Office is making preparation to test the cultivation of tea in this country. The seed will be preserved in China, specially for this purpose, planted in glass cases and shipped in October. By the time of their arrival here they will have sufficiently sprouted to be set out in beds. After being tested here, the plants, if successful, will be distributed among the Southern States. An order for a great variety of seeds will also be sent to Egypt in a few days, through a house in London. This list includes wheat, barley, rice, clover, (*Trifolium Alexandrium*) &c., &c. Arrangements are also making to commence a nursery for the growth of ornamental trees for the public grounds of this and other cities.—They can be supplied from a public nursery at one-twentieth their present cost. Such is the estimate of the Interior Department.

Visit to a Missouri Farm.

We recently visited the farm of Mr. Richard Gentry, of Pettis County, Missouri, and as we have frequently seen flattering accounts of large farms in other States, we have concluded to furnish a description of this farm to our readers, in order to show that Missouri is not behind her sister States in large farms or good farming.

The farm of Mr. Gentry contains seven thousand acres of land, three thousand five hundred acres of which are under excellent fence, and in a high state of cultivation. It is divided, chiefly, into lots of forty acres—making over thirty miles of fence on the farm. The fence is mostly of rails, with stakes and riders, and kept up in the best condition. There is, however, a mile and a quarter of post and board fence on the farm, and some two miles of Osage orange hedge, which, however, has not yet been turned out.

There are on the farm sixty five large gates, of the best construction, and about the same number of draw-bars. The gates and bars are made in a large carpenter shop, in rainy weather, when the hands can be employed at nothing else. All of the implements are put in pairs at such times, and many of the simpler ones manufactured. About two-thirds of the farm consists of high rolling prairie of an excellent quality of soil, and the other third is in timber, immediately adjoining the prairie.

There are fourteen hundred acres of the farm set in blue grass, seven hundred acres in clover and timothy meadow, three hundred and sixty acres in corn, one hundred and sixty acres in oats, twenty acres in Hungarian millet, and the balance of the farm under fence is in woods pasture.

There are on the farm twenty-seven large artificial ponds, many of them of much depth, affording stock an abundance of water at all seasons of the year. During our visit, three stone-masons were employed in erecting large stone-pillars in various parts of the farm, at the outlets of streams, in which large water-gates were to be hung, so that in case of freshets, which are common on large prairies, the gates would open by the action of the water, and close when the water had passed, and prevent the fence from being washed, and the escape of stock from one field to another.

One of the most striking features observable is, that on this immense farm not a single weed is to be seen. Even the fence-corners that very common receptacle of all that is foul on most farms, are as clean of weeds as any city lawn. What do farmers who have only two or three hundred acres under cultivation say of this? Here are upwards of thirty miles of fence, without a weed or briar surrounding it, while many farms, with only a mile or two of fence, raise enough weeds to seed the whole neighborhood. The whole farm is a pattern of neatness. The hands pass over every field as often as it is necessary, and pull every bur, briar, and weed that dares to show itself. This has been done many years, until the weeds have been subdued.

Mr. Gentry has been a large sheep-grower.—Some fifteen years ago, finding the market dull for horses and mules, he concluded to try sheep. He accordingly procured from Kentucky some four hundred head of the best Saxon and Spanish merino ewes, as the foundation for the future flock. These he raised for a number of years, increasing the size of his flock until it ranged for many years from two thousand eight hundred to three thousand head. He went to great expense in procuring the best bucks, and, by judicious management, obtained a very superior flock. For the last four or five years he has been crossing his flocks with the French merino, paying as high as \$150 per head for the bucks. He has some imported bucks of this breed now on his farm. He thinks the French merino superior to the Saxony or Spanish merino, as possessing more constitution, greater weight of carcass, much greater weight of wool, though not of as fine quality, though sufficiently so to command as high a price in market. He has had the very best success in raising sheep; his flocks have never been affected with any contagious disorders, and many of the diseases prevalent in the East have been entirely unknown in his herd. He has recently reduced the size of his flock to about one thousand head, for the purpose of giving more attention to raising mules. He has already quite extensively engaged in the business, but intends to give it more prominence hereafter.

There are kept constantly employed on the farm twelve grown hands and six boys. Our readers may wonder how so large a farm can be so well managed by this small number of hands. It was a wonder too until we saw the perfect system of Mr. Gentry's plans. Everything moves like clock-work. There is a time for everything, and everything must be done in its time. There is no hurry and flurry—but everything moves along evenly and quietly. Each piece of work is attended till it is done. But system is not the only secret of success.—All of the best labor saving implements and machines are used by him, so that with one man he is able, in many kinds of work, to perform the labor of ten men. By this means he is able to accomplish that vast amount of work.

Mr. Gentry has a number of buildings erected, in which he carries on, for his own use, various operations not common among farmers. For instance, there is a large mill-house, where all the meal for the family and stock is ground, and where various other mills and machines are used. There is also a large slaughter-house, with kettles set in arches, and an excellent apparatus for rendering out lard.—Then there is a tool house, a carpenter shop, a harness house, a shop to make shingles, &c. There is also an excellent pair of Fairbank's cattle-scales, which will weigh six tons each operation, with all the appendages for weighing cattle, sheep, swine, hay, grain, &c.

But the next question is, will farming on such a magnificent scale pay? Of course it will. Any kind of honorable business managed as well as this farm is, would pay large

profits. Upon our inquiry, Mr. Grenty informed us that the gross receipts from this farm last year, amounted to over twenty seven thousand dollars (a larger sum than the President of the United States receives annually).

[*Valley Farmer.*]

Value of Sheep to the Farmer.

Sheep are profitable to the farmer, not only from the product of wool and mutton, but from the tendency which their keeping has to improve and enrich his land for all agricultural purposes. They do this:

1. By the consumption of food refused by other animals, in summer; turning waste vegetation to use, and giving rough and bushy pastures a smoother appearance, and in time eradicating wild plants so that good grass and white clover may take their place. In this respect, sheep are of especial value to pastures on soils too steep or stony for the plow. In winter, the coarser parts of the hay, refused by horses and cows, are readily eaten by sheep, while other stock will generally eat most of that left by these animals.

For these reasons, among others, no grazing farm should be without a small flock of sheep—for it has been found that as many cattle and horses can be kept with as without them, and without any injury to the farm for other purposes. A small flock, we said—perhaps half a dozen to each horse and cow would be the proper proportion. A variety of circumstances would influence this point; such as the character of the pasturage and the proportion of the same fitted and desirable for tillage.

2. They enrich land by the manufacture of considerable quantities of excellent manure.—A farmer of long experience in sheep husbandry, thought there was no manure so fertilizing as that of sheep, and (of which there is no doubt) that none dropped by the animal upon the land suffered so little by waste from exposure. A German agricultural writer has calculated that the droppings from one thousand sheep, during a single night, would manure an acre sufficiently for any crop. By using a portable fence, and moving the same from time to time, a farmer might manure a distant field with sheep at a less expense than that of carting and spreading barn manure.

The value of sheep to the farmer is much enhanced by attention to their wants. Large flocks kept together are seldom profitable, while small assorted flocks always pay well, if fed as they should be. To get good fleeces of wool, and large, healthy lambs from poor neglected sheep is impossible. It is also true, that the expense of keeping is often least with the flock that are always kept in good condition. The eye and the thought of the owner are far more necessary than large and irregular supplies of fodder. Division of the flock and shelter, with straw and a little grain, will bring them to spring pastures in better order than if kept together with double rations of hay, one-half of which is wasted by the stronger animals, while the weak of the flock pick up a

scanty living, and often-times fail to get that through the whole winter.

We commend this subject to the consideration of our correspondents—it needs attention on the part of the farming public.

[*Country Gentleman.*]

How to oil a Harness.

We all know that it is of great benefit to oil our harnesses, yet many of us neglect to do it, because we regard it as a dirty job; but it is easy enough, if done right. My process for doing it is as follows:—First, I take the harness apart, having each strap and piece by itself; then I wash it in warm soap-suds. I used to soak it in cold water for half a day, as others did, but I find that warm water does no harm and much facilitates the job. When cleaned I black every part with a harmless black dye which I make thus:—One ounce of extract of logwood, twelve grains bichromate of potash, both pounded fine; upon that I pour two quarts boiling rain-water, stirring until all is dissolved.—When cool it may be used. I keep it on hand all the time, in bottles. It may be applied with a shoe brush, or anything convenient. If any one objects to the use of this blacking, fearing that bichromate of potash it contains would injure the leather, I would just say that this kind of potash will not injure leather, even when used in a much larger proportion. The blacking generally contains copperas—a sulphate sometimes made of oil vitrol and iron, and it is found that it will eat out the life of leather, unless used with great caution. When the dye has struck in, I go through with the oiling process. Some have a sheet-iron pan to oil in, which is better than any thing; but I have a sheet of iron nailed to a board; it is about two by three feet square. This I lay upon a table. I lay a piece or part of the harness upon this, and with neats-foot oil applied with a paint brush, kept for the purpose, I go over it, oiling every part; and thus I proceed until every part is oiled. The traces, breeching, and such parts as need the most I oil again. For the last oiling I use one-third castor oil and two-thirds neats-foot oil mixed. A few hours after, or perhaps the next day, I wipe the harness over with a wollen cloth, which gives it a glossy appearance. Why I use some castor oil for the last coat, is, because it will stand the effects of the atmosphere, the rain, &c., much longer than neats-foot oil, consequently the harness does not require oiling so often, by its use. One pint of oil is sufficient for one harness.

The common way of oiling a harness is, to apply as much neats-foot oil containing lamp-black as the leather will take up; then washing off with castile soap and water. This way is not so good as mine, because it makes the harness smutty, and also the soap that is used contains barilla—a strong alkali, which cuts up and feeds upon the oil in the leather, and the weather, especially if rainy, soon renders the harness stiff and unyielding as before; the wax in the threads is also destroyed, and the stitches gives way. I have experimented with differ-

ent kinds of oil, and find that the kind, and the process, I now use is the best. J. HARR.
Portsmouth, N. H., 1858.

[*New England Farmer.*]

The Greatest Farmer in the United States.

On the 18th of December, ult., we published the following sketch of what was supposed to be the largest and most profitable farm in the country. We published it then, well knowing we could soon procure items here, in California, that would far excel it. Here is the Great Farm in Texas:

"AN EXTENSIVE FARMER.—A correspondent of the *Silver Creek Mirror* says that Col. Jacob Carroll of Texas, is the largest farmer in the United States. He owns 250,000 acres of land (nearly 400 square miles,) in that and adjoining counties. His home plantation contains 8000 acres, nearly all valuable bottom lands, along the Guadalupe river. On this farm he has over 600 acres in cultivation, on which he raises annually about 300 bales of cotton, worth at the plantation from \$76 to \$100 dollars per bale, and 20,000 bushels of corn, worth about 50 cents per bushel. He has a force of about fifty field hands, and he works about sixty mules and horses, and fifteen yoke of oxen. Col. Carroll has, on his immense ranges of pasture lands, about one thousand horses and mules, worth \$50,000; one thousand head of cattle, worth \$7000; six hundred hogs, worth 2000; three hundred Spanish mares, worth \$15,000; fifty jennies, worth \$2000; fifteen jacks, worth \$9000; and five stallions, worth \$2500. Col. Carroll's property, in stock and negroes, is worth at least \$150,000; and the value of his landed estate will swell the amount to over half a million of dollars. His annual income from the sale of stock amounts from \$5000 to \$10,000; and from the sale of cotton, to from \$15,000 to \$20,000."

And here we present the following:

A. P. Smith, of Smith's Pomological Gardens, at Sacramento, on the American river, cultivated about sixty acres the last year; fifty acres in orchard, nursery and flower garden, and ten acres in vegetable garden.

Mr. Smith employs from twenty to forty men; runs one team in the spring to the mines with vegetables, one team twice a day to the city with vegetables, and in the fruit season keeps a team constantly going to the mines.—He has agencies for the sale of his splendid peaches in San Francisco, Marysville, Stockton and Sacramento; and we learn that the gross amount of his sales in the year 1857, exceeded the round sum of \$60,000.

What will our great planters and farmers say to this? We can give them the particulars, if they need it.

Each year of those famous gardens only increases the amount. This should teach men who are laboring on their thousand, or five thousand acres, that it is the "little farm well tilled," and not the great Spanish grant that covers all our doors, that makes the money or brings prosperity. If all our large grants were

cut up into small farms, our State, and all, would be better off—*California Farmer.*

Feeding Hogs on Cotton Seed.

A Florida correspondent of the *Cotton Planter and Soil*, writing on this subject, says:

From actual experiment, coming under my observation, for the last five years, I have no hesitation in saying that cotton seed, mixed with corn meal, in the proportion of one and a half bushels of meal to ten buseels of seed, will make larger hogs at any given age, than the same quantity of anything else that hogs are fed upon.

Mr. Jason Gregory, of Calhoun county, in this State, who, I believe, is entitled to the credit of demonstrating the superiority of cotton seed over almost everything else as food for hogs, is now feeding 100 hogs, sows and pigs included, on fifteen bushels of seed and meal, in the above proportion, per week, and they are in the finest order, growing rapidly, and his hogs will compare favorably with any in the State. Nor has he been driven to feeding on cotton seed, from a scarcity of corn: his plantation is in the low grounds or bottom-land of the Apalachicola river, and will, with favorable seasons and culture, produce from fifty to eighty bushels of corn to the acre; but, for the last four or five years, he has fed on cotton seed in preference to corn.

His manner of feeding is as follows:—He has an 80 gallon sugar kettle; which is filled with cotton seed, and a sufficient quantity of water to boil them. They are then boiled till the seeds are perfectly soft. One and a half bushels of meal are then added and stirred in, and the whole kept boiling till the meal is cooked to mush. When cool, it is ready for feeding.

His hogs are kept in a lot or large pen, with troughs, into which his hog-feeder measures, every morning, the food for each day; taking care to keep the lot well supplied with water, which is absolutely indispensable to hogs fed in this way.

Diseases of the Horse.

FOOT EVIL.—Pound up and melt an ounce of brimstone in a large ladle. When properly melted, add one ounce of tar; and while the whole is boiling, add one tablespoonful of spirits of turpentine, raise the foot and pour it on the diseased parts, first having cleaned the foot well with soap suds; and got dry. The horse should be kept out of the mud, and fed on light food—green if possible. Two applications a week will soon cure most of cases.

FOR BIG HEAD, BIG JAW, &c.—Keep the horse out of the wet weather, feed on bran and a small portion of scalded oats; no corn, but green feed if it can be had. Give him three tablespoonfuls of powdered limestone two or three times a week, and persevere. It may take several pounds. I knew a horse to take seven or eight pounds before a cure was effected, when the swelling on the head entirely disappeared without a scar, and he was afterwards a valuable horse.

FOR POLL EVIL.—Fry green May apple root in tallow until the tallow is completely saturated with its juice. The strength of a peck of roots may be got out with two pounds of tallow. When wanted for use, melt it and apply it with a swab made round a stick with cotton rags.—Apply it about every third day. If no matter has collected, there will be no scar; but if it is broken, apply it to the opening or tube from which the matter issues. When a scab forms so as to prevent the free egress of matter, it must be removed—easily done with the finger nail. This has never been in print, I presume, and doubtless many others as well as myself could give valuable information to our race, were we not too selfish. I say come one come all of the readers of the *Genesee Farmer*, let us see how much more interesting we can make its columns than any other agricultural paper of its size. More anon.—*Genesee Farmer*.

A. YOUNG.

Neosho, Mo., Feb. 25, 1858.

Hints to Farmers.

Be systematic.—Here we have one of the first principles of successful agriculture. Let all transactions be conducted in a business-like manner. Take note of every operation, whether you buy or sell, receive or disburse, sow or reap, make a promise or a bargain. To do this it will be necessary to keep a diary, and we would say, do so, if for no other object than as a ready means of comparison.

Be thorough.—Never half-do a thing yourself nor permit your men to glide over their labors. "If it is worth doing at all, it is worth doing well," would prove a golden maxim to thousands of farmers if they would not only adopt it as a portion of their creed, but exemplify its teachings in their daily life. Away with these *scratchers*—men that go beneath the surface are the kind wanted.

Leave your land in good heart.—It should be the object of every tiller of the soil to leave his land in good condition after the removal of a crop, and, at the same time, obtain as remunerating returns as possible. This can be done only by husbanding all the sources of fertility upon the farm, and adding thereto in every available manner. This is the Alpha and Omega of progressive agriculture. Never boast of a "bank account" if it is obtained at the expense of your farm.

Study your profession.—It is not alone the energy that wields the spade or holds the plow that ensures success. There is a "higher law," the culture of the mind, and it must go hand in hand with the culture of the soil. The relations of science to the farmer's calling are intimate. Good books are aids in the attainment of knowledge, but, never pin your faith on the *ipse dixit* of any individual—think, experiment, and judge for yourself.

Stick to the farm. Amid your plans for the future, never, for one moment, harbor the idea of bettering your condition by entering the arena of commercial life. Do not exchange a home of quiet, real enjoyment, for the turmoil and illusion of a city residence. Barter not sweet

repose for visions of empty wallets, nor let notes, due on the morrow, assume the prerogatives of the nightmare. Very poor comforters for care and anxiety are these little *realities* in the commercial world. *Stick to the farm.*—What though hard labor be the every-day command, it is noble, healthful, and conducive to the development of the whole man.

PRESERVING ORANGES IN COTTON.—Our friend H. B. Austin, Esq., of this city, by way of experiment, last winter plucked several oranges when fully ripe, and laid them away in loose cotton. After being kept in this way about four months, they were taken out, and all were found to be in fine preservation.

One, which was presented to us, was as sound as when first taken from the tree, and "opened quite juicy and sweet. We do not see why oranges, grapes and other fruits might not be kept in this way for a long period.—*Mobile Advertiser*.

M. DUMAS' RECEIPT FOR CHICKEN ROASTING.—"Can you roast a chicken?" "Yes," I hear you say; "everybody can roast a chicken—especially with our patent ovens. Put the chicken in a dish, fill the dish with butter, place the dish in the oven, and baste the chicken frequently, and it will soon be well roasted." "Pooh! I really cannot talk with such a boor as you; it will be time lost. A roast, baked in the oven!—Why that is fit only for Esquimaux, Hottentots and Arabs!" Very well, then, roast it on the spit. "Ah! that's better; but you know that is the infancy of the culinary art." "The infancy of the art?" "Yes, my good friend.—Just tell me how many holes do you make in your chicken, when roasted in this way?"—"Four, if I am not mistaken—two horizontally and two vertically." "Well, that is three too many! For, the more holes the chicken has, the more juice it loses; and the juice of chickens, when it has once fallen into the gravy-bowl, is fit for nothing but to pour on spinach—and, if you will believe me, spinach is better still with the fat of quails. Use no spit, my dear child—use no skewers; try a simple twine string.—Take your chicken, thrust its head in between its two collar bones, so as to make the head enter the cavity of the trunk (this is the Belgian manner); then sew the skin of the neck, so as to close hermetically the wounds of the breast.—Turn the chicken and thrust into it the liver, a small onion, a piece of butter rolled in pepper and salt, and before a bright wood fire hang your chicken by the legs to a twine string, and turn the string with your fingers. Then pour into the dipping-pan a large teacup of cream and a piece of butter the size of an egg; baste the chicken with this butter and cream mixed together, and introduce as much of it as you can."

MAD-ITCH IN CATTLE.—A correspondent wishes to know the cause and cure for the mad-itch in cattle. It is in most cases caused by letting the cattle eat of the corn stalks where hogs have been eating green corn. The hogs leave the entire lot chewed fine, which the cattle eat.

and in a few days they take the mad-itch. I have seen farmers lose whole herds with it.

The best thing I know of to cure this complaint, is to give one pint of melted lard three times in an hour. Sweet oil is better. Drench the animal with cold water. The chewed stalks lie dry in the manifold, and if the beast can be made to take enough water to moisten the cut, it will recover. H.

Connersville, Ind., Feb., '58.

[*Genesee Farmer.*]

Seasons and Crops.

The following extract from a letter of our esteemed friend, Dr. REID, to whom we are under many obligations for the interest he has taken in our cause should have appeared in our Oct. No.; it was overlooked, however, and we give it now, as we believe a correct estimate of the crops in the surroundings of Calhoun's Mills. For although jack frost makes his appearance unusually late we doubt much addition to the cotton crop, unless in favored localities, where the late crop of bolls was not cut off by the generally prevailing droughts.

E. J. G. SEABORN—*Dear Sir*:—Enclosed you will find three dollars to pay the following subscriptions, &c.

As the Editor of the Farmer and Planter, you might be pleased to hear something relative to the present crop. In the early part of the season, and up to the last of July, the prospect for corn and cotton was very encouraging. About that time a drought commenced, and injured the crop greatly. Early corn did not suffer so much and is tolerably good. Late corn was very much cut off. The injury sustained by the cotton in shedding and rust, cannot be closely estimated, but may be set down from one-fourth to nearly one-half. For the last few days, there has been considerable rain—enough to injure the cotton to a considerable extent, as owing to the drought and rust, a large proportion of the crop is open. I believe there will be enough of corn made, with the addition of what old corn there is on hand, to supply the wants of the District. The cotton crop must be light. There was a great falling off in the wheat crop, and the oats almost an entire failure.

Wishing you and the enterprise in which you are engaged, great success, I am yours, most respectfully,

J. T. REID.

For the Farmer and Planter.

Boyd's Prolific Cotton--Inquiry.

MAJ. SEABORN—*Dear Sir*:—You or some of your subscribers will please inform me through the Farmer and Planter, if they know the post office of Mr. Boyd, the gentleman that raised

the Boyd Prolific Cotton. Black Oak will, I think, confer a favor on the subscribers of the Farmer and Planter, if he will give them a full account of his experiments with Gypsum, for I think from what he says, it must be a fine manure, as well as a very cheap one.

Dear Major, let me congratulate you on the interest that Broomsedge and Mr. G. B. Harmon have manifested in the wellfare of the Farmer and Planter, for if all of your subscribers would take the interest they do, I know the Farmer and Planter would live. I flatter myself that those two gentlemen will wake up the rest of your subscribers to send you some five or six subscribers each, by January next.

Wishing the Farmer and Planter all the success in the world, I am yours, very respectfully,

W. BA.

Allendale, Barnwell Dist., S. C., Oct. 12, '58.

P. S. I am glad to say that the Boyd Prolific Cotton is turning out very finely in our neighborhood, and every one that plants it, is pleased with it, and says it is very productive.

REMARKS.—W. BA. will accept our thanks for his congratulations—he might, however, have included with himself many more than Broomsedge and G. D. HARMON in our list of interested friends, but yet we fear they are too few in numbers, with all their devotion, to much longer sustain an agricultural paper in our State.

THE NEGRO RACE.—Bayard Taylor, writing from Nubia, in upper Egypt, says:

"Those friends of the African race who point to Egypt as a proof of what that race has accomplished, are wholly mistaken. The only negro features represented in Egyptian sculpture are those of slaves and captives taken in Ethiopian wars of the Pharaohs. The temples and pyramids throughout Nubia, as far as the Deref and Abyssinia, all bear the hieroglyphy of monarchs, and there is no evidence in all the Valley of the Nile that the negro race ever attained a higher degree of civilization than is at present exhibited in Congo and Ashantee.—I mention this, not from any feelings hostile to that race, but simply to controvert an opinion prevalent in some parts of the United States."

WARM BATHING.—The warm bath is a grand remedy and will cure the most virulent of diseases. A person who may be in fear of having received infection of any kind, as, for instance, having visited a fever patient, should speedily plunge into a warm bath, suffer perspiration to ensue, and then rub dry, dress securely to guard against cold, and finish off with a cup of strong tea by the fire. If the system has imbibed any infectious matter, it will certainly be removed by this process, if it be resorted to before the infection has time to spread over the system.—And even if some time has elapsed, a hot bath will be pretty sure to remove it.—*Medical Journal.*



The Farmer and Planter.

PENDLETON, S. C.

Vol. IX, No. 11, : : : November, 1858.

Correction.

Under the head, "Our Prospects," p. 217, in our last, in line 18 from top, read *names*, instead of "many." It should read, Besides the new names that have been sent us, &c., and not besides the "many;" for we really had not *very* many sent, not more than we had lost during the same time stated. And whilst on the subject, we may say to our friends who take an interest in the matter, that we have received some 50 new names since the article referred to was written, and that we are receiving by almost every mail, accessions by *ones* and *twos* principally, and sometimes *fives*, and now and then *eights* and *tens* when our friends DAWSON and COX report, the latter of which will keep a little ahead of all others. Well, we sincerely thank you, gentlemen, all, even those who send us a single name. If half of our subscribers were to do that much, the Farmer and Planter would be yours for one more year at least, should we be spared to conduct it.

That Bottle of Wine.

With hat in hand, we make our most polite bow in returning our thanks to our greatly esteemed lady friend, Mrs. S. E. MAXWELL, for a present of a bottle of *very superior* Grape Wine. Mrs. M. and her daughter, Miss SUE, took three Premiums on Wine at the late Pendleton Fair, all of which we consider superior to any domestic wines we have ever had the pleasure of tasting, as we have of these on more than one occasion at the bounteously supplied table of our good neighbors, Mr. and Mrs. S. E. M.

The Pendleton Farmers' Society.

The remnant of this old and respectable Society held its Anniversary Meeting and Fair on Thursday, the 7th, and Friday, the 8th of October, as will be seen by the report of the Secretary, and was well attended by both ladies and gentlemen of the village and surrounding country, who evinced a good deal of interest in the proceedings of the Society, and in the very creditable display of articles exhibited. It is strange that persons who seem so much interested on such occasions, do not come forward and attach them-

selves to the Society; but it seems that such interest is only excited by the selfish motive of pocketing the Society's premiums without the public spirit or liberality that would dictate a different course. We were pleased to have the names of several—young men, principally—proposed as members, which will not only add to the respectability of the Society, both in character and in numbers, but also to its funds and increase its means of usefulness.

We had a most creditable and gratifying exhibition of blooded and imported stock, including horses, cattle, jacks, jennetts, hogs, &c., which could not probably be excelled by any district Society in the State.—The exhibition of grades and natives was also quite respectable, and so of agricultural implements, machinery, &c. The products of the farm and garden were also good specimens for the season. The only exhibition from the dairy, we regret, for the ladies sake, to say, was by a young bachelor, who also exhibited the finest pickled *beet* we have any where seen—rather a reflection; we would hint to our fair correspondent, "Josie." But the very inviting and somewhat *tempting* contribution of beautiful, good and useful things by the ladies—although they would not give us a dinner, and for which their gallant Chairman took the responsibility—in a great degree, excused their apparent neglect of attention to the indispensable products of the dairy. We would suggest to the *young* ladies, it might be well to take lessons under our young bachelor friend in the important business of housewifery generally.

The State Fair,

Which every body is preparing to attend, we hope, will be on us by the time—or very shortly after—this number reaches many of our subscribers. We greatly regret that having failed to receive our paper as early as expected, we are thrown so much back in our issue for this month; but so it is, and we trust our friends will excuse the delay. We hope to meet many of you at Columbia, face to face, and give you a right good shake of the hand—nothing will give us more pleasure than to make the acquaintance of *every* subscriber we have, whilst in attendance on the Fair; and we hope not to be placed on any Committee, that we may have the better chance to do so, and to jot down, by the way, such things as may be of interest to our readers thereafter.

We understand that our railroads will charge for going only, all persons who attend the Fair, and that stock and all articles intended to be exhibited, will pass free in both directions. This is an inducement to all to go and to take whatever they have worthy of exhibition. Don't be afraid that others may have a better article than yours—take it along and compare them—it may turn out quite different—yours may be a little better than any ones else. Why, *we* and we are almost ashamed to tell it—we might have obtained the premium last year on the Chinese Cane Syrup. A gentleman who attended the Fair—one of the Judges at the Wallhalla Fair, and who *gave* us the premium there—stated to us that he saw no article near equal

to ours in Columbia, and so we thought on examining all that was exhibited; and yet, supposing many specimens would be shown, and probably better than ours, we left it at home, and our friend GAGE got the cup, which greatly reconciled us to the loss, for it could not have fallen into more deserving hands. And we heard many others say on the Ground, "Why, I could have beaten that animal or article myself;" and very probably they might have done so, but they were like us, afraid that some one else would beat them, and so left an article at home that might have taken a handsome premium.

The Walhalla Fair.

One week after our own Fair, we had the pleasure of attending that of our neighbors at the above place. The proceedings of the Society were spirited and interesting, evincing a disposition in our German friends and surroundings, not to be outdone by their neighbors. But we regret to say, except in the ladies' department, the exhibition was by no means equal to that of last year. The stock, except some remarkably large and fat hogs of their age, neither in numbers or quality, equalled the former show. And what surprised us more than anything else, was, that not an agricultural implement or machine (except one we had left there last year, and not again shown for a premium,) was by us seen on the hill, if any were exhibited, we did not see them. We regretted that the distance was too great to take the two wagon loads of implements, &c.—one of each kind—which we exhibited at Pendleton, to the Fair at Walhalla. But the show of the ladies was certainly very good, and to them be given the credit. If our young bachelor had been there with his little dish of butter, he would have been forced to haul down his colors to at least three out of many more fair competitors.

We would like to say much more in praise of the ladies' other exhibition—the ball at night—but want of space prevents.

Editorial on Articles in this Number.

"*Improved Agriculture in the Southern States.*"—We commend to our readers, and especially to young men, who have chosen the better part—farming and planting for their future occupation—our leading article in this number, under the above head, and taken from "DeBow's Review." It is a plainly written, practical article, and one for which the writer is entitled to much credit. Although we as an old hand at the plow, might, in some particulars, differ with him; yet we would recommend to the inexperienced, the attempt of a strict adherence to their system, at least till such time as their experience and judgment may dictate such alterations or deviations as may result in a better or more practicable course—if a better one is to be found, or can be found under all the circumstances of his particular case—climate, locality, &c., &c.

"*Agricultural Reform.*"—Our second article, we fear, will in some degree, act as a damper on the energy

of our young friends, and would be progressive tillers of the soil, but we give it to them as a warning to shun the course that has been pursued by their forefathers. Let them resolve that their course shall be differently shaped—that their lands shall be handed down to their sons more productive than when given them by their fathers. And to accomplish this most desirable and praiseworthy object, allow us again to recommend the attempt to follow the example which is set them by the writer of our leading article.

Our third article, "Overseer's Rules," we recommend as a text book to all overseers, and if we could reach them more—especially those who "know enough," and never read an agricultural paper unless their employer furnishes it, and only then to point to them as ignorant as themselves—foolish non-believers of book-farming. Overseers who subscribe and pay for their own agricultural paper, are usually found to be a very different class from the above, although following the same calling. The latter seeks information to enable him to pursue the most honorable and profitable course to himself and employer, whilst all the former desires to know, is, how to swindle and cheat his employer out of both time and money. The two constitute a strikingly different class, as our own experience has sorely taught us—the one an honest, honorable man—the other anything else. To be sure some respectable and correct overseers are furnished by their employers with agricultural papers, which they read with interest, and profitably to themselves and employers, but they are not the non-subscribing class above alluded to, they are exceptions to the rule; such men, if their employers were not subscribers for them, would be so for themselves. But how many overseers in the Southern States are anxious readers of political papers—for which we blame them not—who never pretend to read an agricultural paper, to instruct themselves in their own business—for which we do blame them. One would suppose that such men were preparing themselves for representatives of the people—to see that the State suffer no detriment, instead of the representative of their employers on the farm or plantation. How many of our readers are there who know half a dozen or perhaps a dozen overseers who could not be persuaded to subscribe for an agricultural paper, and who are regular subscribers to newspapers, which they not unfrequently read for hours to the neglect of their employers business. We see these things and think they deserve a passing remark. We believe there is not a greater curse to an employer than that shifting class of overseers, who but rarely remain on the same farm more than one year. They care not for the preservation or improvement of land, stock or anything else. They scratch, skin and destroy, regardless of any thing but the name of making a large crop, only to enable them to impose upon some other man the next year, and leave everything in a condition that their follower could not, if so disposed, restore in the first twelve months for which he is employed. On the subject of a change in the time for employing overseers, we refer to an article taken from the *Laurensville*

Herald, with editor's remarks, in which we feel disposed to concur.

At first, we intended extending our remarks on other articles in the present number, but find we shall not have space for more at present. Broomsedge will please see the article from the *South Carolinian*.

Our Advertisements.

Look over our advertisements and you will find several you have probably not before seen. Some people seem to think that it is throwing away money to advertise in an agricultural paper—wonder who they consider their best customers? not readers of agricultural papers, we must presume, from the course they pursue. But to our advertisements not heretofore noticed:

To Land Buyers.—Persons wanting to buy a valuable farm, ready in every respect to go right to work on, we would advise to examine that of Mr. S. E. MAXWELL, a full description of which is merely hinted at in his advertisement. The place must be seen to appreciate its value, and many attractions, a very important one of which is its being situated in one of the very best neighborhoods of Pickens District—this of itself is certainly an important consideration to one selecting a new home. Good buildings of every description, in good condition; machinery and all other necessary appliances of a well laid out and well conducted farm, constitute other attractions not to be met with on one place in a hundred offered for sale. Mr. MAXWELL wishes to send a part of his force to Florida, and being extremely anxious to sell, will give a great bargain, and on the most accommodating terms.

Milk Cows and Dairy Farming.—We also refer to the notice of this new work, which will doubtless be one of interest to every one owning a cow.—The work embraces a wide range of topics, while it contains the most recent information on matters connected with the dairy. We are informed that no pains or expense has been spared to make it the most complete work of the kind, that has ever appeared in this country. We have expected to receive at least one copy before now, but it has not yet come to hand.

The Horticulturist.—See also the prospectus of this—to every fruit raiser—most popular work, for vol. 14, established by the late and lamented A. J. DOWNING, and now edited by J. JAY SMITH, and published by C. M. SAXTON, New York. Let every one wanting information on any subject embraced in its scope, send on their names at once for a copy.

Dried Blood and Wool Manure.—Here is something new under the sun—not as a most efficient and unfailing manure, for this has long since been known—but to be offered for sale in as large quantities as it is now offered, by R. L. ALLEN, of New York, is surely new to us. See Mr. ALLEN's notice on our advertising sheet, and you will conclude to test it at least, before buying any more Peruvian Guano, at more than double its price. We are expecting a catalogue of

other fertilizers, agricultural implements, seeds, &c., from Mr. ALLEN, any of which we shall be pleased to order for our friends.

The Plow, the Loom and the Anvil.—We have received the prospectus of this "Agricultural, Manufacturing and Scientific Journal," and will endeavor to give it in our next. Persons wishing to receive the Illustrations of HENRY'S Machinery for converting seed cotton into yarns on the plantation, would do well to send for the work at once, as we see the engravings will appear in the first number only. Price, \$2 in advance. Address R. H. GALLAHER, 51 Liberty st., N. Y.

Pomaria Nurseries.—Will our fruit raisers and lady amateurs of beautiful flowers and shrubbery, turn to our fall advertisement, just fresh from friend SUMMER, of the above celebrated Nurseries, and there see that he has every thing that they can possibly need in the way of fruits, flowers, ornamental trees, shrubbery, &c., &c., then make a selection and forward orders forthwith, which will be promptly and reliably filled by an honest Nurseryman of our own soil. In all, the month of November is the best time to set out trees—much better than the spring of the year, according to our experience. Persons attending the Fair at Columbia, will have an opportunity of seeing specimens of Mr. SUMMER's fine fruit, and having the names of each variety given, from which selections may be made.

Corn Experiment, by Dr. Parker.

Below we give our readers an account of a well conducted and most interesting experiment made by our Corn King, Dr. J. W. Parker, on three of the most prolific varieties of corn. It will be seen that Dr. P's own seed, the "Hybrid," is almost as much superior to the other kinds mentioned as has been his success over all others in the production of this great staff of life, which, we think, fully justifies us in the title we have above given him of the *corn king*.—The Doctor having gained the prize for two successive years, very generously yields the field to other competitors, which he might, in all probability, successfully occupy the present and third year.

DEAR COL.:—It may be interesting to those who read the "Farmer and Planter," to learn the result of an experiment which I have just concluded, with three varieties of corn, in order to ascertain the productive property of each.

After carefully preparing two separate acres of the very best ground, I planted $\frac{1}{2}$ in Peabody, $\frac{1}{2}$ in Williamson, and $\frac{1}{2}$ of each acre in my own seed, which I shall denominate as "Hybrid," and which was made from mixing and planting together the best kinds of corn I could get from year to year, selecting therefrom in the Fall, my seed.

The land, culture, manuring, &c., all being

equal, the experiment was a fair and satisfactory one. Before harvest, the ears on nine rows of each were counted, and the average taken as the number throughout each acre. The crop was then harvested, carefully measured, and resulted thus:

Peabody, $\frac{1}{2}$ acre,	made 5180 ears—33 bns. shelled.
Williamson, $\frac{1}{2}$ " "	3663 " 47 " "
Hybrid, $\frac{1}{2}$ " "	3827 " 63 " "

Total of an acre, 133 bushels of good corn.

From which statement it is evident that the acre, if planted in Peabody above, would have produced 99 bushels; if in Williamson, 147; and if in Hybrid, 159 bushels—or 60 bushels more than the Peabody.

Acre No. 2 produced 105 bushels, with about the same result respecting the comparative product of each variety.

Each variety presents its distinctive marks, and will be exhibited at our State Fair. It is not my intention to compete for the premium this time, having taken it two successive years, but for the information of my friends—state that I made 233 bushels good sound corn on two acres, with no extraordinary effort.

The yield from my best acre of winter oats was 44 bushels.

Respectfully,

J. W. PARKER.

P. S. I have just received a letter from a gentleman in Virginia, who has been trying the varieties above alluded to. He writes: "The corn you were so good as to send me, are fine varieties, but I have never seen anything to equal the Peabody corn, and after your mode of cultivation, I think it would excel all other kinds in productiveness. The Camanche does not compare with it, though resembling it in its much branching. I have just shelled and measured one ear of corn—"Parker's Premium," (Hybrid); it measured three half pints. The Williamson corn is yet in the milky state. I am, notwithstanding, cutting it down, as we had a heavy frost last night."

It is possible my friend's conclusion about the superiority of the Peabody was based upon its producing a greater number of ears, without regard to the greater number necessary to make the same measure of shelled corn, that either of the other varieties require, and which is as follows:

Peabody—selected ears,	153 to 1 bushel
Williamson " " "	80 " "
Hybrid " " "	65 to 70 " "

J. W. P.

CHEESE.—It is said that a cheese painted over with melted suet, so as to form a thin coat over the outside, never has mites.

Book-Farming, &c.

A friend who promises us a club for the next volume, writes us in a P. S. as follows. We thank him for the credit he gives the Farmer and Planter for his increased crops. It would seem "book-farming" has not "ruined" him.

P. S.—Since I have taken your paper I have, in nine years, doubled my crop. I do not attribute it entirely to the reading of the paper, but I really must give it credit for fifty per cent., and although I am a small farmer, yet I should feel like a pea fowl with his fine tail pulled out, for your paper to discontinue. Do try again, and I will still try and get more subscribers. Any information from — will be given cheerfully, and I am aware there are several more paying subscribers.

Respectfully yours,

S.

For the Farmer and Planter.

Proceedings of the Pendleton Farmers' Society.

PENDLETON FARMERS' HALL, }
October 7th, 1858. }

The Society met this day, and was called to order by the President.

Members present—Geo. Seaborn, President; Ropt. A. Maxwell, A. P. Calhoun, R. F. Simpson, A. F. Lewis, John Maxwell, S. E. Maxwell, W. A. Hayne, J. W. Crawford, Edward Symmes, J. L. N. Smith, Rev. Mr. Cornish, Wm. VanWyck, and Carver Randell.

The minutes of last meeting were read and approved.

Maj. Simpson, Chairman of the Committee to arrange for a Picnic, reported that nothing could be done, and on motion, that matter was dropped.

Mr. A. F. Lewis proposed Messrs. Livingston and Kilpatrick, and Mr. S. E. Maxwell proposed Dr. Sharpe, as members of this Society. On motion, the rules were suspended and the above named gentlemen were unanimously elected.

The Society proceeded to the election of officers for the ensuing year, whereupon the following were elected, viz.: George Seaborn, President; Dr. H. C. Miller, Vice President; Carver Randell, Secretary and Treasurer.

On motion of Col. Calhoun, the Secretary was requested to have a place prepared for the exhibition of stock on to-morrow.

On motion of Col. Hayne, it was resolved that the President of this Society be the Chairman of the Executive Committee Ex-Officio.

On motion, the Society adjourned to meet to-morrow at 11 o'clock, A. M.

CARVER RANDELL, Sec'y & Treas.

FRIDAY, Oct. 8th, 1858, 11 o'clock, A. M.

The Society met and was called to order by the President. The minutes of yesterday's meeting were read and approved.

Mr. R. A. Maxwell proposed Messrs. Porcher and J. L. Simpson—Mr. A. F. Lewis proposed Messrs. John Rolater and John T. Sloan—and Maj. Jones proposed Dr. John Maxwell, as members of this Society. On motion, the rules were suspended, and the above named gentlemen were unanimously elected.

On motion of Col. Calhoun, it was

Resolved, That a Committee, consisting of three, be appointed by the President to ascertain from the members, what contributions they will make for a dinner on our next anniversary.

Whereupon the President appointed Messrs. S. E. Maxwell, W. R. Jones, and A. F. Lewis.

Maj. Jones proposed Messrs. Talmadge and S. E. Mays—Col. Hayne proposed Messrs. Henry Keasler and J. T. Reid—and Mr. F. W. Kilpatrick proposed Mr. H. D. Calhoun. On motion, the rules were suspended, and the above named gentlemen were unanimously elected.

On motion of Mr. Robt. A. Maxwell, it was

Resolved, That this Society, through its President, appoint 2 Delegates to the State Agricultural Society at its annual meeting in Columbia. The Delegates not to be life members of the State Society—and that the Secretary be requested to pay their dues.

The President then announced the Committees to award premiums.

On motion of Maj. Simpson, the Society took recess, that the Committees might have time to attend to their respective duties.

HALF-PAST TWO O'CLOCK, P. M.

The Society was called to order by the President.

The Committees being called on for their reports, submitted as follows:

The Committee on the most successful experiment with any fertilizer, on Corn, Wheat, or Oats, report that Col. Hayne was the only competitor. As the experiment is accompanied by a written report, your Committee recommend that it be read to the Society, and published in the Farmer and Planter—and that the premium be awarded to him for the experiment.* They consider the success of the experiment to have been mainly owing to the

stimulating effects of the manure in hastening the growth and maturity of the plant, and thereby avoiding the rust which was so fatal to the wheat crop of the last season. We, therefore, consider the experiment as a valuable suggestion to the Farmers of the District, and well worthy of imitation.

R. A. MAXWELL, Chairman.

The Committee on Sweet Potatoes, Irish Potatoes, Turnips, &c., report that of Sweet Potatoes only one sample was exhibited—that by Mr. John Rolater, who planted about three acres, of which he has dug about one-fourth of an acre. He has sold about 35 bushels—saved 18 for seed—and his family, which is large, has been using them since the 1st of August—making an average of upwards of 200 bushels per acre. We think him entitled to the premium. Of Irish Potatoes, a remarkably fine specimen was presented by Mrs. Seaborn, but the ground or product not being measured, your Committee could not award the premium. Of Turnips, none were exhibited.

A. C. CAMPBELL, Chairman.

The Committee on the greatest yield of Corn to the acre, asked leave to report hereafter.

W. A. HAYNE, Chairman.

The above request was granted.

The Committee on Stallions, report that they award the premium to Mr. Richey for the best Stallion for all purposes.

A. F. LEWIS, Chairman.

The Committee on best Mules, raised in the District, under 4 years old, report that there were four Mule Colts exhibited for the premium. One by Mr. Reid, two and a half years old; one by Mr. Robbins, one and a half year old; and one by Mr. McPhail of same age; and one by Mr. Sloan, fifteen months old. They are all good. Your Committee agreed to award the premium to Mr. Robbins.

J. L. N. SMITH, Chairman.

The Committee on Bulls, report that two very fine young Bulls were exhibited, of improved stock, and equal to any in the United States. One Devon—the other Ayreshire.—They award the premium to Mr. Latta for his Devon Bull.

R. F. SIMPSON, Chairman.

The Committee on Cows, Calves, &c., report that they award the premium for the best Cow—improved stock—to Mr. S. E. Maxwell; for the best native Cow, to Col. W. A. Hayne; and for the best Calf, under one year old, to Col. A. P. Calhoun.

Chairman.

The Committee on Rams, Ewes, Lambs, &c.,

*Col. Hayne's report will be published in our next number.—ED. F. & P.

report that Col. Hayne exhibited a Southdown Lamb, and a half-bred Merino Ram; that Mr. Latta exhibited an English Ram and Ewe, and two fine Lambs of mixed stock; that they award the premium to Col. Hayne for his Ram, and to Mr. Latta for his Lambs.

J. N. BOGGS, Chairman.

The Committee on Jacks, Jennets, &c., report that they award the premium to Mr. Cobb for the best Jack, and to Maj. Seaborn for the best Jennet.

F. W. KILPATRICK, Chairman.

The Committee on Boars, Sows, &c., report that the exhibition was remarkably fine, embracing Essex, Graziers Chester County, &c.; but that the Essex Boar and Sow imported by J. T. Latta, are entitled to the premium as especially fine.

A. P. CALHOUN, Chairman.

The Committee on best Mare Colt, &c., report that they award the premium to Col. A. P. Calhoun for the best Colt under three years old.

J. W. LIVINGSTON, Chairman.

The Committee on the best collection of Farm Implements, report that they award the premium to Maj. Seaborn.

S. E. MAXWELL, Chairman.

The Committee on Turning-Plows, Cultivator, &c., report that they award the premium to Maj. Seaborn for the best Turning-Plow and Cultivator—Boyden & Son's make.

J. W. CRAWFORD, Chairman.

The Committee on Straw Cutters, &c., report that they award the premium to Maj. Seaborn for the best Straw Cutter—Sinclair's patent.

W. H. D. GAILLARD, Chairman.

The Committee on the best specimen of Butter, Cheese, &c., report that there was only one specimen of butter exhibited—no Cheese. They award the premium to Mr. Ed. Symmes for Butter.

W. R. JONES, Chairman.

The Discretionary Committee on articles exhibited by gentlemen report that Mr. Robt. A. Maxwell exhibited a very superior article of superfine Flour, for which they award him a premium of \$3.00. To Col. A. P. Calhoun, a premium of \$2.00 for a pair of fine native Pigs—Grazier stock. To the same gentleman, a premium of \$2.00 for a superior native Sow, of the same stock. To Mr. T. J. Harrison, of Pendleton, a premium of \$1.00 for a beautiful sett of Buggy Harness, of his own manufacture. And to Mr. Laurence, a premium of \$2.00 for a superior native Boar.

W. A. HAYNE, Chairman.

A superior Corn Sheller was presented by Messrs. Seaborn & Knauff, and a Wheat Fan by Maj. Seaborn—both overlooked by the Committee.

The Committee on discretionary premiums to ladies, respectfully report that the exhibition of articles, although not so numerous as they would desire, yet they found many to admire, and recommend the following premiums:

For the best Oil Painting, Miss N. Pelot, \$2.00

“ “ “ Green Preserves, Miss Virginia Robinson, 50

For the best Jelly, (apple) Mrs. W. R. Jones, 50

For the best Wine, (raspberry) Mrs. S. E. Maxwell, 50

For the best Wine, (grape) Mrs. S. E. Maxwell, 50

For the best Wine, (blackberry) Miss Sue Maxwell, 50

For the best Molasses, (Sorghum) Mrs. R. F. Simpson, 50

For the best Pickles, Mr. Ed. Symmes, 50

“ “ “ Beets, Mrs. Geo. Seaborn, 50

“ “ “ pair Boots, Mr. Thos. Magill, 1.00

Your Committee being aware of their incompetency to judge of the merits of many articles exhibited, asked the assistance of a Committee of ladies, who kindly made the following awards:

For the best embroidery in Silk, Miss Annie Maxwell, \$1.00

For the best Quilt, (patch work) Mrs. W. H. Whitner, 1.00

For the best Needle Work, Miss Alice E. Sloan, 50

For the Best Crotchet Work, Miss M. M. Simpson, 50

For the best Tatting Work, Mrs. E. M. Cobb, 50

For the best Domestic Jeans, wool and cotton, (2 pieces) Mrs. J. M. Stribling, 1.00

For the best plain Wool and Cotton Homespun, Mrs. Jno. Rothlander, 50

For the best Dress Pattern (domestic), Miss Page, 50

The Committee cannot close their report without alluding to the beautiful Boquets of Flowers exhibited by Mrs. W. A. Hayne and Mrs. John T. Sloan, the pyramid by Mrs. Hayne surpassing anything of the kind we have before seen within our Hall.

Respectfully submitted.

J. T. SLOAN, Chairman.

On motion of Col. Calhoun, the above reports were accepted and adopted.

Col. Hayne proposed Dr. Mabry, and Maj. Jones proposed Mr. G. T. Symmes, as mem-

bers of this Society. The rules being suspended, they were unanimously voted in.

Col. Wm. Sloan, having complied with the terms, was permitted to withdraw from this Society.

The President appointed Messrs. S. E. Maxwell and W. R. Jones, Delegates to the State Agricultural Society.

On motion, the Society adjourned.

CARVER RANDELL, Sec'y & Treas.



Ladies' Department.

From "Josie Jonquil"—Recipe, &c.—
For the Farmer and Planter.

SWEET HOME, S. C.

MR. EDITOR:—Here is the recipe I promised you for cooking fowls; it is not original. Fowl a l' Ecarlate. Roast two nice fowls and boil a fine salted tongue, which trim so as to be able to stand in a dish, then place it in the middle in a standing position; place a fine head of cauliflower at each end, and make a pint of cream sauce, pour over the fowl and brocoli; glaze the tongue and serve.

Now I am going to say a few words about preparing poultry for cooking. There are a great many different modes. I believe that one is to wring a chicken's neck and serve it up in five or ten minutes after in fine style, with the life not quite extinct. Of course the meat is perfectly tough and stringy. Another exceedingly palatable and picturesque way of serving up a fowl is, with part of the feathers on. Now I will give you my opinion about preparing fowls for cooking. First, they should be decently killed, that is, have their heads chopped off with an axe, then immediately put into scalding water, and picked perfectly clean; draw the fowl and wipe the inside and outside with a dry towel; salt it well and suspend it away in some cool place to drain—head downwards. If the season is winter, poultry may be kept in this way for a week; in summer, a day or night. Prepared in this way, the meat will be tender, and have a delicious flavor. There is nothing now-a-days to eat but chickens—I suspect we will begin to *croak* soon. Now you have got that recipe. I suppose you are tired of hearing from me. Well, to finish off, here is another for Jefferson Padding: One pound of boiled potatoes made into a mush with sweet milk, add half a pound of white sugar, six eggs, and one grated lemon; bake forty minutes. I tell you that's good.—

But I cannot conclude without saying a few words about the Atlantic Telegraph—the wonder of the nineteenth century. What is your opinion on the subject? I perfectly agree with the Editor of the Messenger, in thinking it a "great humbug." Nevertheless, it is truly a wonderful thing that two mighty nations should be connected by a wire, and electricity be conveyed beneath the waves of old ocean. "Josie," said aunt Abigail the other day, "what is all this fuss in the papers about the Atlantic Cable and the great celebration in New York?" I gave aunt a full explanation, and further astonished her by informing her of a wonderful discovery just made by some scientific individuals, "i.e.," that of uniting America with Egypt by the tail of a comet as soon as a certain Yankee should have constructed an especial balloon to perform a journey to the comet and inform the inhabitants which way the President desired them to turn the *tail first*; and also for the purpose of getting up a grand celebration in one of the principal cities of said comet, at which it is *whispered* a party of Pendletonians and New Yorkers have hired a balloon to attend. I am also informed that the editors are to ascend into the aerial regions. *Perhaps* you may meet me. If I attend the Fair at Columbia, I shall certainly notify you of the fact, that I may be introduced to Broomseidge—of course he will be *delighted* to make my acquaintance. *Hurrah!* there 's the *whistle* Just think—*mine a rail road torn*. That whistle must be in a *decline*—Oh, dear! what a *solemn* sound.

Yours, till the comet comes,

JOSIE JONQUIL.

REMARKS.—Our fair correspondent, "Josie Jonquil," will accept our thanks for the promised recipe—"Fowl a l' Ecarlate." we believe, but being no Frenchman, we are not quite certain as to the name—there is no doubt to our *taste*, however, that substance would be most palatable. We would suggest the name for the *whole* dish, Fowl Hotchpotch, instead "*a l' Ecarlate*." But we are not informed where to place the fowl—we suppose, however, at the sides, as the tongue occupies the "centre," and the cauliflowers the "ends" of the dish. As to "glazing" the tongue, we presume the cook knows all about that. Our fair friend's mode of preparing poultry pleases us much. We even dislike on calling on a neighbor, to hear the chickens begin to squall at dinner time.

Our opinion of the Atlantic Telegraph is, that it is a failure, and we are not sorry for it.

As to that "balloon," we are not in, but should be glad to meet "Josie" at Columbia at the Fair, that we may have the pleasure to introduce her to Broomseidge, who promises her that "cup," on certain conditions. We had a close lookout for her at our Pendleton Fair, but if she was there, neither us nor our "devil" recognized either her sign or token.

RAISIN CAKE.—One cup of sugar, 1 cup of molasses, 1 cup of raisins, 2 eggs, a piece of butter as large as an egg, 1 teaspoon-saleratus little spice.

From the Valley Farmer.
House Cleaning.

BY HETTIE MAYFIELD.

(CONCLUDED FROM PAGE 240.)

PAINTING.

Oil is better for being boiled, skimmed and strained, and some painters boil in it a few cents worth litharge to the gallon to facilitate drying. Most colors desired can be had ground in oil in which case they need but to be thinned to the consistence of cream, with oil or turpentine. The last professional painter we employed used turpentine chiefly for all indoor paintings, except hearths, which, like out-doors work is exposed to water and must be of oil.—As we have said, primitive colors are to be had chiefly ready ground, and are mixed in white paint to the shade wanted. Ivory Black or common lamp black, mixed in oil and strained through coarse muslin is commonly used to paint base boards or common mantles well.—Black mixed in white makes a lead color, and yellow mixed in lead gives an olive. We cannot extend an article with particulars, but say, have a large brush for large surfaces, a small one for crevices and cracks, and dipping your brushes lightly into the paint, rub well, always making your strokes the same way and that with the grain of the wood.

A piece of oil cloth laid beside where you are painting is perfect protection against accidents. Black paint is usually varnished after drying. Hearths require several coats of paint with full time to dry.

WHITE-WASH,

For ceilings or rooms should be of Paris white, or very pure lime. One-half bushel of unslacked lime, slacked with boiling water and covered during the process. When strained add to it one bucket of thin paste of ground rice, one peck of clean salt, three pounds of spanish whiting and one pound of clean glue, dissolved in boiling water. It must stand 24 hours, then be put on hot with a brush. Common white-wash as above, substituting flour for rice, and omitting the whiting and glue.—White-wash may be made any colors by stirring in coloring matters. When large surfaces are to be painted or have a colored wash keep a plank and try every bucket you mix, else you may make a shocking-pied picture.

PAPERING.

If you must do this yourself, brush over your wall with a solution of one pound of glue to four gallons of water. Make a smooth flour paste, one pound of allum dissolved in three gallons of the paste. Trim one side of your paper neatly and cut it in lengths of the ceilings' height. Have a long table, lay the right side of the paper down and spread the wrong side smoothly with paste. Take the two ends of the paper together, (the right side followed together inside.) Step up on your platform and begin at the top pressing down the paper smooth with a clean towel. The second length will cover the edge of the first and so on. The figures must be matched exactly as in a carpet,

and you should begin in the least conspicuous corner of the room, putting on the first piece by a plumb line. The border will have to be cut in pieces that you can easily handle and put together accurately. Common paper is easiest hung.

CARPETS

Should be whipped with slender tapening rods, shaken and well swept on both sides. If they should have been discolored by acids, ammonia rubbed on will often restore the colors. Ink spots may be removed with citric acid or good vinegar. Lamp oil may be removed by continuous applications of pipe clay or magnesia, but any good colors may be washed in suds having been previously well wet with water in which beef gall is strongly mixed. Green is the most unsafe color to risk in water.

Bedsteads should be scalded if necessary, and if there be a remote apprehension of bugs, fill every crevice with strong brown soap, or corrosive sublimate dissolved in alcohol, or mercury mixed in beaten white of an egg. The polished part of the bedstead like the rest of fine furniture, having been wiped clean with a towel dipped in soft water, may be rubbed over carefully with fine sweet oil; if your common furniture needs varnishing you can get suitable brushes and cabinet maker's varnish and do it yourself; but if you have fine furniture, procure the services of a professional man. If spermaceti has dropped on your furniture, cover the spot with magnesia or chalk. Lay several folds of blotting paper over it and set an iron, not warm enough to fade the colors, on it. Heat marks may be removed from a table by rubbing hard on it some oil of vitriol, and afterwards Alcohol.

Ink.—By rubbing on it quickly oil of qitriol, with two parts of soft water.

Oil cloths should be wiped over with lukewarm or cold water, without soap, or milk and water.

Matting should be swept clean and washed with clean salt water.

Chintz Curtains should be shaken and brushed free from dust, and they may be worn out without washing.

Brocatelle curtains and wall paper may both be cleaned by being wiped carefully with a soft slice of stale bread, or by having perfectly dry wheat bran rubbed over them.

Stoves should be cleaned perfectly, then have a black lustre which is prepared for the purpose, mixed with milk and put on with a paint brush—when dry, polish with a dry brush.

Brasses may be cleaned with oxalic acid of vinegar and salt, but better with fine brick dust—it does not tarnish so soon as when acids are used.

Silver plate, Britannia, &c., should be washed over with whiting, mixed with water.—When dry, this should be rubbed off with a soft flannel, and afterwards polished by rubbing with a buck-skin. It is an error to wash these articles over when avoidable, with soap.

We regret our space should be filled and so many items of useful knowledge excluded. We shall some day furnish a chapter of miscellanies.